

## Romans – 8B Listening Guide

1. As we finish (chapter) 8 we are coming to the end of the topic of how you become righteous.
2. Seven brought that interesting discussion about the fact that your righteousness before God doesn't mean your life here is without \_\_\_\_\_. If you are justified by faith you still experience sin and wrestle with it. It's not a sign that you're \_\_\_\_\_. Or that you are in \_\_\_\_\_.
3. You can be justified and still not \_\_\_\_\_ like it.
4. He led off in chapter eight with "there is now no condemnation" because, what has been done to save you can't be \_\_\_\_\_ by you.
5. If you're worried at all about this certainty then you spend every day trying to protect what you don't need to protect, which is going to steal away time and effort from where you should be investing it.
6. Knowing that my resurrection and my hope is \_\_\_\_\_, what do I do while I'm waiting?
7. What he does in eight is raise an issue that causes him to go off topic.
8. Knowing how to interpret (chapters) 9-11 hinges on understanding why they exist.
9. Paul said we all are being patient now because not only are we suffering... but the whole creation itself groans. There is a burden for the world that God Himself laid on the world in the form of this \_\_\_\_\_ period, but it was for good purpose because He is attentive to the needs of those who are not yet \_\_\_\_\_.
10. At the end of chapter eight he starts to address God's \_\_\_\_\_...in light of the fact that He has an appointed \_\_\_\_\_ that's going on around us.

### **Vs. 26**

11. Paul begins to explain how God has appointed some \_\_\_\_\_ structures for the church even in the midst of this difficult life.
12. The Spirit in you knows the mind of God...and \_\_\_\_\_ Himself interceding for us knows what the Spirit's mind is, knows what God's intending to do and through man what's going to happen.
13. To the extent that we listen to that \_\_\_\_\_ then we'll be given the right course.

**Vs. 28**

14. "And we know..." Paul begins the statement with an assumption... that you already \_\_\_\_\_ with this. It's inevitably the conclusion you come to if you've read (chapters) 1-8.

15. What else can we possibly conclude except that \_\_\_\_\_ is in \_\_\_\_\_.

16. He is not passively waiting while we decide if we want \_\_\_\_\_.

**Vs. 28**

17. The word *causes*, means to actively \_\_\_\_\_. He brings to purposeful and meaningful end.

18. The Creator is the complete and \_\_\_\_\_ authority concerning all matters on \_\_\_\_\_ and in heaven, and nothing can happen that is not according to His \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

19. There is no actor, no power, no authority greater than \_\_\_\_\_. If all authority traces to \_\_\_\_\_, and anything that happens finds its origins in \_\_\_\_\_, then there can be no actor to influence His \_\_\_\_\_.

20. There is no source of \_\_\_\_\_ that can act outside \_\_\_\_\_ own power; He is the \_\_\_\_\_ of all power.

21. Paul's point here is simple and yet it's profound. We've got to understand that we wait patiently in hope for our resurrection and \_\_\_\_\_ we face here poses a \_\_\_\_\_ to that outcome.

22. God ensures that nothing comes between us and Him, nothing can frustrate our \_\_\_\_\_, nothing has enough power to stop the \_\_\_\_\_ that God intends to bring His children.

23. The ultimate fulfillment of Romans 8:28...you're still \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.

24. Where you go next is the logical extension of what he's said up till now.

**Vs. 29**

25. Understanding these verses properly rest on two things the audience has to do.

a. First, you have to keep Paul's point in mind.

b. Second, you have to read the words in the verses and accept their \_\_\_\_\_ meaning without explaining their meaning in some novel or imaginative way.

26. There is an obvious chain of events being described here. The links of the chain are the linking word \_\_\_\_\_. He's got a group of people in mind and there's a chain of activity that applies to this group and the link is the word *also* and each link in that chain

is without \_\_\_\_\_. It's not a \_\_\_\_\_ chain. When the first link of that chain is laid down, then all the others are a \_\_\_\_\_ conclusion. There is no \_\_\_\_\_.

27. The second observation is that Paul is using these verses to support his earlier statement in verse 28. There can be no experience in this life that could \_\_\_\_\_ in any way so as to bring an \_\_\_\_\_ to God's promises for us. Our glorification is never going to be in doubt because God's promises are \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Vs. 31**

28. This is the bookend (to verse 28).

29. If God is \_\_\_\_\_ us, who's \_\_\_\_\_ us?

30. Paul wants to assure the reader that what God has begun He will certainly \_\_\_\_\_.

31. If any link of the chain was at all in doubt...then the argument Paul is making falls apart.

32. God's will can not be \_\_\_\_\_.

33. Let's look at the chain...starting with the word \_\_\_\_\_.

34. Vs. 28-*Those* who \_\_\_\_\_ God and are called according to His purpose. Christians, believers, saints.

35. He *foreknew*...means to understand the \_\_\_\_\_ with certainty. God's understanding which predates knowledge.

36. *Foreknowledge* by definition... He knows in advance *those*. He knew who would come to Him.

37. He knows in advance who the Christian is because He also *predestined* them to become conformed to the image of His son...to become a part of the church.

38. The word simply means to determine before hand.

### **Acts 4:27, Isaiah 53:8**

39. Men did everything exactly the way God predestined it to occur. No one argues with that. And yet, we take the same word...and all of a sudden we react negatively to the prospect that God Himself determined who would become a Christian.

40. It's a link in the chain. If you break the link what promise do we have?

41. Free will... exists under the umbrella of \_\_\_\_\_ sovereignty. It never \_\_\_\_\_ or trumps God's sovereignty.

42. God can't allow anything in His creation to exist outside His \_\_\_\_\_.

43. It is inevitable. He has to step in to change the course of the human \_\_\_\_\_. The human heart only knows one course; a one-way trip to hell.

44. *Free will* means you do what your \_\_\_\_\_ compels you to do.

As an unbeliever you're a slave to \_\_\_\_\_. You do things...but you never escape the box Paul calls sin or slavery.

45. You are now a slave to Christ. You can't leave this box either...but your will never determined which box you were in.

46. What we understand [free will] to mean is that we have a bondage in \_\_\_\_\_ which by \_\_\_\_\_ power can be transformed into a \_\_\_\_\_ bondage with Christ.

47. Because we still have half our body unregenerate you can have the dual quality to your life under Christ where I'm bound to him and \_\_\_\_\_ but I'm still working to \_\_\_\_\_ that in my choices and decisions.

48. Ultimately there will be \_\_\_\_\_.

49. The next series of the chain continues on.

50. We are like Him in \_\_\_\_\_ respects. We will \_\_\_\_\_ like He suffered. If He was resurrected, we'll be \_\_\_\_\_. If He has an inheritance, we'll have an \_\_\_\_\_.

51. The moment you're *called* into faith is when God's plan...actually came to bear in your life. The call now has been made. That is an inevitable link in the chain. If He *foreknew* you and *predestined* you, there will be a day when He *calls*.

52. These whom He *called* he *justified*. He doesn't extend a *call* that can be frustrated. If \_\_\_\_\_ power is the thing that caused the change, what can frustrate God's power?

53. Those whom He *justified* He also *glorified*. If I accept...that four out of the five steps are a foregone conclusion because they are \_\_\_\_\_ to me...then the only one your asking me to believe in is the last step in a 5 step chain of which four have already happened...by \_\_\_\_\_ power.

54. Paul's whole argument falls apart if you don't accept all of these links as \_\_\_\_\_.

55. Paul wants the believer to be \_\_\_\_\_ of the future fulfillment of the steps.

**Vs. 32-35**

56. If God was willing to make the \_\_\_\_\_ of His \_\_\_\_\_ an essential part of this plan to redeem us then isn't God prepared to do whatever is necessary to see the plan through?

57. *Elect* is another word here for \_\_\_\_\_. *Those He foreknew and predestined.*

58. The *elect* are those who \_\_\_\_\_ has appointed to faith.

59. Paul concludes with vs. 35...

60. Vs. 36 is a quote from Psalm 44. God considers that for \_\_\_\_\_ sake, for Christ's sake, our lives may be poured out.

61. Psalm 44 is a kind of Lamentation. It's the perspective of a nation going through turmoil. They felt forsaken.

62. It reinforced for the audience in his day...that the nation of Israel did not accept their Messiah.

63. Chapter 9 is the beginning of a three chapter sidebar which is only there to deal with the issue of, "what about \_\_\_\_\_"?

64. If you don't address that you leave \_\_\_\_\_ in the mind of the listener as to whether or not the \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_ are any more solid than the ones He gave to Israel.

65. Paul has to reinforce the principle that God is \_\_\_\_\_ to His \_\_\_\_\_.

**Verse by Verse Ministry**  
**A Study of the Book of Romans**  
**Leader's Guide – Lesson 8B**

**Overview-**

During this week's teaching, Pastor Armstrong said that we are in a box of either slavery to sin or slavery to Christ. We don't control what box we're in (if we are in the box of slavery to Christ that happened through God's power) but we do things and make

choices while we're there. That idea is what we've been discussing where it comes to sin and overcoming temptation, but we must understand that we work at that within the box of justification leading to ultimate glorification. No matter what we do *inside* the box, we aren't getting out of the box. Not by effort, not by will, not by error. It is God's sovereignty that you are there, and that while there you have the various experiences necessary for Him to conform you to His son's image. It is predetermined.

We don't like the idea of losing our free will, but remember, we still move about within the box, and our lives certainly prove the fact that we are free to make choices – even bad ones. The gift is that we make those choices safely within the box of our sure salvation. Today, however, let's discuss God's sovereignty even further to see just how secure we are in His hands.

### **Discussion Topics and Questions -**

1. Begin by reading Psalm 103:19.
2. The NAS translation reads: "*His sovereignty rules over all.*" **Sovereignty** is defined as *royalty, royal power, royal position, empire, kingdom.*
3. Over what does He rule?
4. Now read Romans 8:28. What does He sovereignly promise to those who believe?
5. So God has established His royal power over all things, and causes all things to work together for the believer's own good. That leads us to ask ourselves if we have truly accepted His sovereignty in our lives. Not if we have been saved – we can't claim Romans 8:28 otherwise – but if you have accepted God's royal power over your life.
6. Turn to the book of Job and read all of Chapter 1, then answer the following questions.
7. How does verse 1 describe Job?
8. What is Satan's argument against Job in verses 9-11?
9. What does God give to Satan?
10. Does this seem "fair"? Why/why not?
11. Is your answer based on Job's works? What does that say to you about the subconscious basis of your relationship with God?
12. What is Job's response to these tragedies in verses 20-21?
13. And what is recorded about him in verse 22?

14. Job showed that he understood that every event in his life was directed by God. He understood God's right to do as He pleased and did not charge God with wrongdoing. He did not dispute nor resist God's sovereign will.

15. From there the book of Job records long discourses made by Job's well meaning friends who offer worthless and bad advice to him, listing the cause of his circumstances as everything but the sovereign will of God. Even Job gets into the act, eventually saying that he wishes he knew where to find God's dwelling so that he could present his case before Him. In other words he was saying that he was blameless and I didn't deserve his circumstances.

16. By Chapter 38, God had heard enough, and for the next 4 chapters He makes a scathing reply. But look where Job ends up. Read Job 42:2.

17. What does Job understand once again?

18. What does Job's story illustrate for us about God's sovereignty?

19. If we accept the fact of God's sovereignty then we understand that He either brings or allows every circumstance of our lives, and He does it for our benefit and for the purpose of conforming us to the image of Christ.

20. Now turn to the little book of Jonah. You're likely familiar with this story so we will work verse by verse to make our point rather than read large passages.

21. Read Jonah 1:1-3. What did Jonah do in response to God's word?

22. Now a great storm gathers and threatens to sink the ship and Jonah takes responsibility for the problem. He tells the men to throw him overboard in order to save themselves and the ship. Read Jonah 1:14.

23. What do even these men understand, as you interpret the last few words of the verse?

24. We all know what happens next, so what is God teaching through Jonah about His sovereignty?

25. Does your answer mirror Psalm 103:19 which you read earlier?

26. How do both of these stories make Paul's point in Romans 8:39?

27. What's the difference between the initial response of Job and Jonah?

28. Read Jonah 4:1-8. What's the difference between Job and Jonah at the end of their stories?

29. Did you notice verses 6 and 7? Who provided both the vine and the worm?

30. What does that teach us about God's sovereignty?

31. Now remember last week's lesson and the importance of our "mind set". What needs to be always in our minds?

32. Read 1Thessalonians 5:16-18 again. Without the Word, why would it be possible to be joyful, prayerful, or thankful in Job's situation? In Jonah's? In yours?

### **Summary-**

We can resist and dispute the sovereignty of God, but that in no way diminishes its power. Jonah did that, but ended up completing the task God set before him regardless of his attitude in the midst of the task. In that is both a lesson and encouragement which brings us back to Romans. We can't escape the box. We have the freedom to make choices, but the end is fully, safely, securely in God's hands. How we choose to respond to God's sovereignty will make all the difference in whether we experience the bitter consumption of Jonah or the restoration of Job.

Finish today by reading the end of Job's story in Job 42:12a.