

SERMON NOTES

Assurance In The Gospel

Ps Glen Cochrane
Nexus Church
13 SEP 2026

Rom 8:18-39

opening prayer

- Pray for a deeper assurance of salvation in Christ.
- Ask Holy Spirit to help us rest securely in the person and work of Christ, particularly in seasons of suffering or uncertainty.

ice breaker

Think of a time in your life when you felt genuinely certain about something (significant decision, relationship, new venture, etc).

Describe what it was that gave you such certainty? How did it impact the way you lived?

overview

- Biblical assurance is the firm confidence that we are saved, forgiven, and secure in Christ.
- Assurance doesn't mean freedom from suffering, but confidence that the Lord is with us.
- God works through all things for our good (**v. 28**), shaping us into the image of Christ.
- Present suffering is not the end; it cannot compare with the glory that is coming (**v.18**).

go deeper

What does it mean to truly know that we are in right standing with the Lord?

Ps Glen takes us through **Rom 8** to explore the powerful truth of Christian assurance: the quiet, firm confidence that our sins are forgiven, that we belong to Jesus, and that we have eternal life in and through Him.

The passage begins with no condemnation (**v.1**) and ends with no separation (**vv. 35 & 39**), showing us what it looks like to live securely in all that Jesus has already accomplished for us.

Ps Glen's sermon reminds us that assurance doesn't mean life will always be easy. We will face suffering, uncertainty and seasons where the Lord *feels* distant, yet, we can take great confidence that He is with us, working through all things for our good, and shaping us to become more like Himself.

Suffering is never the end of the story — the glory in the Lord that awaits us far outweighs the pain we experience now. Moments in our walk when we struggle to feel assured, rather than looking within for certainty, let us return to the gospel and all that Christ has done for us.

application 01

Take a few moments to quietly reflect on the following:

Identify a present suffering in your life. Even now, bring it to the Lord in prayer. Rather than only asking for the Lord to deliver you from it, also pray:

"Through this suffering, help me to see the spiritual formation that is taking place within me"

Journal anything you feel the Lord says, and continue to come back to this in prayer.

discussion

- 1 Why is it that, in the midst of suffering, our inclination is to assume the Lord is either distant or displeased with us? How does **Rom 8** challenge that?
- 2 Ps Glen proposed that the Lord is more committed to our holiness than our comfort. With this in mind, how could our view of hardship and suffering be reframed?
- 3 We know there is no condemnation and no separation. What would change in your life, your relationship with the Lord and others if you *genuinely* lived with that assurance?

application 02

Practice the assurance conversation.

With a partner in your group, practice explaining in simple terms what Christian assurance means and how it differs from a works-based approach to God. Think about how you would share this naturally in an everyday conversation.

closing prayer

- For Holy Spirit to bring peace and comfort for those in the group who are walking through suffering right now.
- Renewed confidence in the assurance of salvation in Christ.
- Gratitude to the Lord that nothing can separate us from His love, and that we are not condemned.