GOD WITH US GOD LOVES US GOD REDEEMS US GOD RESTORES US GOD RENEWS US GOD REMEMBERS US GOD SEES US GOD HEARS US GOD ANSWERS US GOD SAVES US GOD KNOWS US GOD PURSUES US GOD HEALS US GOD COMFORTS US GOD FORMS US GOD LOVES US GOD FILLS US GOD EQUIPS US GOD WITH US GOD CALLS US GOD FOR US GOD REDEEMS US GOD HEALS US GOD RENEWS US GOD REMEMBERS US GOD SEES US GOD HEARS US GOD ANSWERS US GOD SAVES US GOD KNOWS US GOD EQUIPS US GOD RENEWS US GOD COMFORTS US GOD FORMS US GOD PERSUES US GOD FILLS US GOD CALLS US

# FALL 2025



#### Dear North Park Family,

For many of us, the fall season feels much more like the beginning of a new year. That is true of how our church tends to function. Fall marks a time when we begin to turn our attention toward another year of ministry. Another year where we will seek to immerse ourselves in the true story of the world. Another year where we will celebrate Christmas and Easter, where we will praise God for the wonderful things that happen, weep and mourn the difficulties, and seek to proclaim and practice the Living Christ. Because of this, as we launch our new ministry year we wanted to call on you to commit this year to the Lord, and to begin the year by immersing yourself in the Word of God.

The booklet you hold in your hands is similar to ones we have put together previously during our advent and lent seasons. It is a companion booklet to the sermon series we will be working through from August 31-October 12, and invites us into a time of daily readings, a spiritual discipline, and a call to participate in the life of the church. Our sermon series is titled God For Us, and will focus on Romans 8. As New Testament scholar N.T. Wright notes, Romans 8 is not only the "heart of Romans" but is "arguably the greatest chapter in Paul's greatest letter." It is a chapter where the Apostle Paul seeks to unpack the remarkable glories of our Triune God's work for us, that is

so complete and sufficient and assured, that it guarantees for us all we could ever need and so much more. It is a chapter about the work of Christ, and the work of the Holy Spirit. It is about the groaning of creation for a better day, and the assured hope that that day will indeed come. It is about the love of God in Christ Jesus that will never be taken away.

But, of course, Romans 8 is not the totality of what God's Word has to say to us! In fact, it is not even the totality of what Romans says to us. Therefore, the purpose of this booklet is to not only lead us to more deeply dwell on the message of Romans 8, but to saturate our minds and hearts in the entire book of Romans. There are two practices in particular that this booklet will guide us through. The first is daily readings (excluding Sundays) through the book of Romans over a 7 week period. The second is memorization prompts of either one verse per week in Romans 8, or for those who are up for it, the entire chapter of Romans 8.

This may be intimidating! But lets seek to do this together, so that we may more deeply know and rest in the God who is for us and whose love can never be taken away from us.

Your Co-Leads,

Wanda Silvester and Joel Miles

#### **Fall Events & Electives**

Volunteer Fair - September 7 following each service

Fall Kick-Off - September 14 starting at 12:00pm

Youth - Wednesdays starting September 10

**Young Adults & Young Professionals -** Alternating Thursdays 7:00-9:00pm

60+ - Second Thursday of each month 10:30am-12:00pm

**Faith Driven Entrepreneurs Watch Party -** September 19 8:30am-12:00pm

Women's Retreat - September 20 8:30-3:00pm

**ESL -** Saturdays starting September 20

Alpha - Thursdays 6:30-8:00pm starting September 25

North Park Kids - Tuesdays in October 6:00-7:30pm

Mom2Mom - Wednesday mornings starting October 8

Child Dedications - October 19 during services

Prayer & Worship Night - Wednesday, October 29

**How Great Thou Art -** 3 Mondays starting November 3 Adult elective celebrating God's creation as seen through the lens of scientific inquiry

**Baptisms -** November 9 during services Mandatory class September 28.

For groups such as **men's and women's bible studies,** or Care groups such as **GriefShare, CancerCare, and DivorceCare** visit northpark.ca/register

## An Encouragement to Get Involved

As we begin the new year and dive into God's word, we also want to gently encourage you to engage with the life of the church. In Romans 12, the Apostle Paul compares the church to a body with different parts, each functioning for the benefit of the whole. This imagery illustrates that being part of the church means being part of a community that both serves and serves together.

We understand that some of you may be in a season where your focus is outside North Park, such as with your family or workplace, and that's wonderful! We simply invite you to prayerfully consider how you might also participate in ministries here.

Visit northpark.ca/serve to find a list of ministries where you could serve. Please feel free to reach out and get involved where you feel gifted, called, or just interested.

## **Practice: Memorizing Scripture**

"Memorization is an essential element of a life without lack. It is a primary way we fill our minds with the Word of God and have our thoughts formed by God's thoughts. Memorizing Scripture is even more important than a daily quiet time, for as we fill our minds with great passages and have them readily available for our meditation, "quiet time" takes over the entirety of our lives. Memorization enables us to keep God and his truth constantly before our minds, allowing his Word and wisdom to help us."

- Dallas Willard

Our hope in this series is that every one of us will grow more joyful and secure in the love and grace of Jesus Christ. For that reason, we want to do more than gather on Sundays to hear sermons on Romans 8; we are urging one another to commit to memorizing this magnificent chapter. As the quote above from Dallas Willard makes clear, there are few Christian disciplines or practices that are more important. In fact, Willard stresses the value of this discipline when he writes elsewhere, "Bible memorization is absolutely fundamental to spiritual formation. If I had to choose between all the disciplines of the spiritual life, I would choose Bible memorization, because it is a fundamental way of filling our minds with what it needs."

Memorization matters because the patterns of this world and the words we exchange so easily can persuade us that we are lost, condemned, or separated from God's love. Those messages are lies. And Romans 8 shows us that! Brothers and sisters, "there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:1); the Father, who did not spare His own Son, "will also graciously give

us all things" (Romans 8:32); and absolutely "nothing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:38–39). When such truths dwell in our minds and hearts, they are better able to confront every counterfeit voice. Therefore, during this time we want to, as a community, come together to seek to memorize parts of this glorious chapter or even the entire thing!

If you are new to memorizing Scripture, the task feels daunting, or maybe you are looking to do this with younger kids, begin with one verse each week. We have chosen a key verse from every section of Romans 8 and have even written songs in a memorizable and family friendly way, to aid with the work. You can stream the songs on Spotify (North Park Worship), AppleMusic (North Park Worship) or YouTube using the North Park Community Church account page.

But if you are feeling up for it, you will also see prompts for memorizing the entire chapter. Each week we will focus on the section of Romans 8 that will be the focus of the sermon on the upcoming Sunday.

Remember, this is not a legalistic exercise in spiritual achievement. Romans 8 itself reminds us that our standing with God rests on Christ alone. We are seeking to commit these passages to heart not to earn divine approval but to rest in the reality that condemnation has been removed, every good gift is ours in Christ, and no power in the universe can sever us from His love. Memorization simply helps those unshakable truths reach the deepest places of our hearts.

## **Reading Through the Book of Romans**

"The Epistle to the Romans is one of the greatest Christian writings. Its power has been demonstrated again and again at critical moments in the Church's history ... Romans is not an easy book. But it has always yielded rich dividends to anyone who studies it seriously, and it still does."

- Leon Morris

As we memorize and internalize Romans 8, we also want to soak in the whole letter. Few writings rival Romans for depth and power. It is Paul's longest epistle and his fullest unfolding of the gospel's riches. In 16 chapters he:

- Exposes our universal sin (1:18 3:20)
- Shows God's righteous justice (3:21-26)
- Magnifies His love (5:6-8)
- Proclaims the sufficiency of Christ's death and resurrection (4:24-25; 6:5-11)
- Highlights the Spirit's empowering presence (8:1-17)
- Explains God's purpose for Israel and the nations (9 - 11)
- Calls believers to transformed living (12:1-2; 13:8-14)
- Aims ultimately at God's glory (11:36; 16:27)

At the climax of his argument, Paul bursts into praise:

"Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!

How unsearchable His judgments, and His paths beyond tracing out!

'Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been His counselor?' 'Who has ever given to God, that God should repay them?'

For from Him and through Him and for Him are all things. **To Him be the glory forever! Amen.**" (Romans 11:33-36)

Reading Romans can feel like building a relationship: the more time, patience, and honest questions you invest, the more its beauty unfolds. A first encounter is wonderful, but deeper acquaintance reveals truths you couldn't see at the start.

#### How We'll Read

- Pace: one small section each day, six days a week, over 6 weeks (to match our sermon series).
- **Posture:** linger, pray, wrestle. If a verse challenges you, ask God for a soft heart (Heb 3:13). If you're confused, pray for clarity (Ps 119:18).
- **Goal:** to stand in awe of the God who, while we were His enemies, died for us (5:6-10), adopted us (8:14-17), filled us with His Spirit (8:9-11), and promises that nothing can separate us from His love (8:38-39).

The daily schedule follows on the next page. Let's meet—or deepen our friendship with—this glorious letter together, so that through it we would "behold the God who is for us" (8:31).

Sunday, August, 31, 2025

Sunday Service: Romans 8: Introduction Notes:

Day 1 (Monday, September 1, 2025): Romans 1:1 - 17

Day 2 (Tuesday, September 2, 2025): Romans 1:18 - 32

Day 3 (Wednesday, September 3, 2025): Romans 2:1 - 16

Day 4 (Thursday, September 4, 2025): Romans 2:17 - 29

Day 5 (Friday, September 5, 2025): Romans 3:1 - 20

Day 6 (Saturday, September 6, 2025): Romans 3:21 - 31

#### **Memorization**

Day 1 (Monday, September 1, 2025): Romans 8:1

Day 2 (Tuesday, September 2, 2025): Romans 8:2

Day 3 (Wednesday, September 3, 2025): Romans 8:3a

Day 4 (Thursday, September 4, 2025): Romans 8:3b

Day 5 (Friday, September 5, 2025): Romans 8:4

Day 6 (Saturday, September 6, 2025): Reviews

Sunday, September 7, 2025

Sunday Service: Romans 8:1-4 Notes:

Day 7 (Monday, September 8, 2025): Romans 4:1-12

Day 8 (Tuesday, September 9, 2025): Romans 4:13 - 25

Day 9 (Wednesday, September 10, 2025): Romans 5 : 1 - 11

Day 10 (Thursday, September 11, 2025): Romans 5 : 12 - 21

Day 11 (Friday, September 12, 2025): Romans 6 : 1 - 14

Day 12 (Saturday, September 13, 2025): Romans 6: 15 - 23

#### **Memorization**

Day 7 (Monday, September 8, 2025): Romans 8:5-6

Day 8 (Tuesday, September 9, 2025): Romans 8:7-8

Day 9 (Wednesday, September 10, 2025): Romans 8:9-10

Day 10 (Thursday, September 11, 2025): Romans 8:11

Day 11 (Friday, September 12, 2025): Romans 8:12-13

Day 12 (Saturday, September 13, 2025): Review

Focusing on one verse - Romans 8:6 The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace.

Sunday, September 14, 2025 Sunday Service: Romans 8:5-13 Notes:

Day 13 (Monday, September 15, 2025): Romans 7:1-6

Day 14 (Tuesday, September 16, 2025): Romans 7:7-13

Day 15 (Wednesday, September 17, 2025): Romans 7:14 - 25

Day 16 (Thursday, September 18, 2025): Romans 8:1-11

Day 17 (Friday, September 19, 2025): Romans 8:12 - 17

Day 18 (Saturday, September 20, 2025): Romans 8 : 18 - 27

#### **Memorization**

Day 13 (Monday, September 15, 2025): Romans 8:14

Day 14 (Tuesday, September 16, 2025): Romans 8:15a

Day 15 (Wednesday, September 17, 2025): Romans 8:15b

Day 16 (Thursday, September 18, 2025): Romans 8:16

Day 17 (Friday, September 19, 2025): Romans 8:17

Day 18 (Saturday, September 20, 2025): Review

Focusing on one verse - Romans 8:15 The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father."

Sunday, September 21, 2025

Sunday Service: Romans 8:14-17

Notes:

Day 19 (Monday, September 22, 2025): Romans 8: 28 - 39

Day 20 (Tuesday, September 23, 2025): Romans 9:1-18

Day 21 (Wednesday, September 24, 2025): Romans 9:19 - 29

Day 22 (Thursday, September 25, 2025): Romans 9 : 30 - 33

Day 23 (Friday, September 26, 2025): Romans 10 : 1 - 13

Day 24 (Saturday, September 27, 2025): Romans 10 : 14 - 21

#### **Memorization**

Day 19 (Monday, September 22, 2025): Romans 8:18

Day 20 (Tuesday, September 23, 2025): Romans 8:19-20

Day 21 (Wednesday, September 24, 2025): Romans 8:21-22

Day 22 (Thursday, September 25, 2025): Romans 8:23

Day 23 (Friday, September 26, 2025): Romans 8:24-25

Day 24 (Saturday, September 27, 2025): Review

Focusing on one verse - Romans 8:18 I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.

Sunday, September 28, 2025 Sunday Service: Romans 8:18-25 Notes:

Day 25 (Monday, September 29, 2025): Romans 11:1-10

Day 26 (Tuesday, September 30, 2025): Romans 11:11 - 24

Day 27 (Wednesday, October 1, 2025): Romans 11 : 25 - 36

Day 28 (Thursday, October 2, 2025): Romans 12:1-8

Day 29 (Friday, October 3, 2025): Romans 12:9 - 21

Day 30 (Saturday, October 4, 2025): Romans 13:1-7

#### **Memorization**

Day 25 (Monday, September 29, 2025): Romans 8:26

Day 26 (Tuesday, September 30, 2025): Romans 8:27

Day 27 (Wednesday, October 1, 2025): Romans 8:28

Day 28 (Thursday, October 2, 2025): Romans 8:29

Day 29 (Friday, October 3, 2025): Romans 8:30

Day 30 (Saturday, October 4, 2025): Review

Focusing on one verse - Romans 8:28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Sunday, October 5, 2025

Sunday Service: Romans 8:26-30 Notes:

Day 31 (Monday, October 6, 2025): Romans 13:8 - 14

Day 32 (Tuesday, October 7, 2025): Romans 14 : 1 - 12

Day 33 (Wednesday, October 8, 2025): Romans 14:13 - 23

Day 34 (Thursday, October 9, 2025): Romans 15:1-13

Day 35 (Friday, October 10, 2025): Romans 15: 14 - 33

Day 36 (Saturday, October 11, 2025): Romans 16:1-27

#### **Memorization**

Day 31 (Monday, October 6, 2025): Romans 8:31-32

Day 32 (Tuesday, October 7, 2025): Romans 8:33-34

Day 33 (Wednesday, October 8, 2025): Romans 8:35-36

Day 34 (Thursday, October 9, 2025): Romans 8:37-38a

Day 35 (Friday, October 10, 2025): Romans 18:38b-39

Day 36 (Saturday, October 11, 2025): Review

Focusing on one two verses - Romans 8:31-32 What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

Sunday, October 12, 2025

Sunday Service: Romans 8:31-39 Notes:



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