UPCOMING EVENTS

Visit our website at vbc.online/events for more detailed information.

You can also sign up for our weekly email newsletter by contacting admin@thecrossing.org.

- · Parent Sunday (MSM & HSM) Today
- · Women's Day at CityTeam Oakland Friday, October 11th & 25th
- Fall Festival at the Altamont Saturday, October 12th @ 10 am
- EncounterVBC (Newcomer Event) Sunday, October 13th @ 9 am
- · Henry Cowell Camping Connections Trip October 17th 20th
- Forensic Faith Conference Saturday, October 19th @ 9 am
 - · CityTeam Outreach Saturday, October 19th
 - · VBC Basketball Starts Sunday, October 20th
- · Women's Harvest Brunch Saturday, November 2nd @ 9:30 am
- · Kids Against Hunger Food Packing Event Saturday, November 9th

GET CONNECTED

If you're new to VBC, we're glad you're here! Scan the QR code below to download our VBC App and get connected:



You can also get information online at www.vbc.online/new-here

SONGS & SERMONS

"Your Love Never Fails" - Anthony Skinner, Chris McClarney

"Exalted Over All" - Andi Rozier, Jason Ingram, Jess Cates

"This is Amazing Grace" - Josh Farro, Jeremy Riddle, Phil Wickham

> "Rock of Ages" - Thomas Hastings, Augustus Montague Toplady

"Only Wise God" - Valley Bible Worship

"I Am Set Free" - Leslie Jordan
To listen or watch today's message,
visit www.vbc.online/media

FINANCIAL REPORT

Weekly Operating Budget Need......\$34,434.00 Y-T-D General Fund Need.....\$1,308,492.00

Giving Last Week......\$25,989.00 Y-T-D Giving.....\$1,223,382.00

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2019 MUSIC: DAN GILLETTE | MESSAGE: GARY DARNELL

MESSAGE NOTES

God's people using Romans 8 to build up others (Review & Use)
Romans 8

FOUNDATIONAL THEME: God equips His family to share with others how He is working in their lives.

How God designed His church (people) to keep growing:

1. Everyone speaks truth lovingly so as to build up others.

Eph. 4:15 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

2. God gives each one a unique ability to help others by dispensing God's grace.

1Pet. 4:10 As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace:

How, then, can we speak Romans 8 to one another to stimulate survival & growth?

1. Made "right" with God -

What is our standing before God? What happened to our sins? What does God think of us? Is fear to motivate us to live right?

Rom. 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Rom. 8:33 Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.

2. The Holy Spirit who indwells -

Do we consider the amazing fact that God lives in us? Do we consciously pre-occupy ourselves with what Jesus has done for us? Is "walking in step" with the Spirit becoming a constant practice? Are we reminding ourselves that we no longer must sin, no matter what?

- **Rom. 8:9** You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.
- **Rom. 8:5** For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.
- **Rom. 8:2** For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.
- **Rom. 8:13** For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

3. The perfect family relationship -

Do we live in awareness that God is our perfect Father? Do we live free from "fear of punishment" or seek to avoid our Father's disapproval? Do we revel in the fact that God wants to be our Father?

Rom. 8:15 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" ¹⁶ The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

4. Enduring our unavoidable suffering -

Do we live realistically knowing that suffering in this world must take place because of sin? Do we live with certain hope that one day this necessity of suffering will come to a halt? Do we live in excited, enduring expectation of that day by walking in step with the Spirit?

Rom. 8:23 And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

5. God's promise of good through suffering -

Do we rely on the Holy Spirit's prayers for us when we are stymied by the hardships of life? Do we trust that our Father will use suffering to produce "good" in our lives, namely, "to be conformed to the image of His Son"?

Rom. 8:26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.... ²⁸ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

6. God's immutable love for us-always! -

Do we relate our suffering to God's proof (Jesus' death) & promise (to continue "gracing" us) that prove He is "for us"? Do we deal with human opposition by fleeing to the Father's justifying us and the Son's past & present work for us? Are we convinced that no circumstance of life nor powerful forces of evil will ever put us outside God's love?

Rom. 8:31 What then shall we say 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 with him graciously give us all things?

Rom. 8:39b . . . nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.