

QUESTIONS TO PONDER—What was new, interesting, thought-provoking, confusing, convicting, etc in your reading?

**1. Sunday, June 4; Rom. 8:18-25; Hope to Come in Resurrected Bodies.** Read the passage with notes. How is verse 18 a philosophy to take to heart for you and me? How does this thought help you currently or in the past? What are your thoughts regarding creation itself being in bondage and yearning for liberation (19-22)? Share ways you or I yearn for liberation through redeemed bodies (23)? **Personal Application:** How does hope play a role in your everyday life (24-25)? How/why may we be patient (25) in our current sufferings (18)?

**2. Monday, June 5; Rom. 8:26-30; The Role of Prayer in All Things Working Out for Good.** Read the passage with notes. How does the Holy Spirit help us in our weaknesses (26-27)? Have you or I experienced the Holy Spirit's presence as we pray or as we are too overwhelmed to pray? How is the Holy Spirit an asset to us in prayer (27)? How does the Holy Spirit/God steer our situations for good instead of disaster (28)? Give evidence of how you are being transformed into the image of Christ (29a) and how you or I model after Christ (29b). **Personal Application:** How are you or I personally predestined, called, justified, and glorified (30)? Give your thoughts on the meaning of predestination in this passage and in general.

**3. Tuesday, June 6; Rom. 8:31-39; Inseparable Thus Conquerors!** Read the passage with notes. What are "these things" Paul mentions (31, see verse 18)? Is any situation in life too grim (31)? Why not (32)? Is there any person who can bring us to a spiritual end (33-34a)? Why not (34b)? What does Jesus Christ do on our behalf as we face troubling situations or people? Lit all this situations that have no power over us because of Christ's amazing love for us (35-37). Add your own troubles to the list. What are we now (37)? Add these other situations that can never interfere with or separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus to your list (38-39). **Personal Application:** Reflect on your life and the current troubles you are having. How does this passage minister to you? How does it help to give you or me a positive "attitude adjustment" and a hope and faith in the outcome despite our hardships?

**4. Wednesday, June 7; Rom. 9:1-9; Israel Chosen by God to See the Messiah.** Read the passage with notes. What issue caused Paul's great sorrow (1-4a)? What amazing gifts of God had the nation of Israel experienced (4-5)? What point is Paul driving home that is of utmost concern (6-8)? For Jesus' take on Israel's unbelief, read John 8:44, 47. How did Sarah take God's promise into her own hands to fulfill (Gen. 16:11, 17:20-21)? How did God answer His own promise (Gen. 18:10-14)? **Personal Application:** Like Paul in 1-4, for who do you or I long to see come to faith in Jesus Christ? Release these people into the Lord's mighty hands who wants all people to be filled with His Truth. (1 Timothy 2:3-5 (NIV)<sup>3</sup> *This is good, and pleases God our Savior,* <sup>4</sup> *who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.* <sup>5</sup> *For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus.*)

**5. Thursday, June 8; Rom. 9:10-18; Promise Seen in Isaac and Moses.** Read the passage with notes. What do you remember about Jacob and Esau (10-13)? Why did God choose Jacob over Esau (11b-12a)? Give your thoughts on verse 13, also found in Mal. 1:1-4 and notes. How is God not unjust in His decisions (14-16)? What is comforting about verse 16? How was Pharaoh's stubbornness used by God (17)? To whom is God merciful (18)? **Personal Application:** How does a person incite God's mercy? (**Psalm 51:17 "My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise."** **Is. 57:15 "For this is what the high and exalted One says— he who lives forever, whose name is holy: "I live in a high and holy place, but also with the one who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite."**)

**6. Friday, June 9; Rom. 9:19-24; Recipients of Wrath or Recipients of Mercy?** Read the passage with notes. What excuse do some people give for not coming to the Lord (19)? Why is this argument wrong (20-21)? What necessary attitude is missing from this view (see verses from yesterday)? What is Paul's opposite argument (22-23)? **Personal Application:** How are the "riches of His glory" known to you, the object of His mercy (23)? When were you called (24)? How has your call changed with growth in Christ?

**7. Saturday, June 10 Rom. 9: 25-33; Faith of Gentiles versus Works of the Law by Jews.** Read the passage with notes. Why did God call the Gentiles (those who were not originally His chosen people) to Himself (25-26)? What hope is there for Israel who rejects God's Son (27-29)? What would have happened without a faithful remnant of Jewish believers (29)? What is the interesting comparison between the Gentiles and Jews (30-31)? Why are the Jews (besides the believing remnant) in error (32)? **Personal Application:** What causes people to stumble over Jesus, the Rock (33)? How will you or I never be put to shame?

