SERIES TITLE: VICTORIOUS
PART FOUR: **OVER SEPARATION**
TEXT: ROMANS 8:28-39

INTRODUCTION TO STUDY

This chapter of Romans is one of the great mountain peaks in all Scripture. It expresses some of God's most wonderful promises and inspires grateful praise. Over four weeks we will explore these themes of victory, which is life as God intended.

CONTEXT OF SCRIPTURE

In conclusion, Paul wants the Roman church, and all disciples, to understand that they are never alone in this new life in the Spirit. While we suffer with Christ in hope of glorification, we can be certain that God is with us throughout. Our trials are part of His plan to redeem the world and thus lead to our sanctification, being conformed to the image of Christ.

FOCUS QUESTION

Are you usually a glass half-full or half-empty person? Why?

EXAMINATION

vv.28-30 What are some common ways that v.28 is misunderstood?

<u>Guarantee #1-When you face opposition, know that God has a purpose.</u>

- How would you describe that purpose from this passage?

- Consider the steps in the process: Foreknew, predestined, called, justified, glorified. In what way does this comfort you and/or challenge you?

vv.31-39 How have you seen the words of v.31 misused?

<u>Guarantee #2-When you face opposition, God gives what you need.</u>

- Consider the example of Stephen in Acts 6:8-8:2. An obvious need would have been protection from the mob that wanted him dead. Instead, he was murdered. What did God give him?

- What is the evidence that God is for us?

EXPLORATION

- Genesis 50:15-21
- Psalm 23
- Isaiah 43:1-7
- Ephesians 1:11-14
- Romans 8:35-39

APPLICATION.

- When has it been most difficult for you to believe God works for our good in all things?
- How does understanding God's overall purpose help us navigate opposition and trouble?
- From the list of oppositions in vv.35-39, which is most threatening to you and why?
- How can this passage be helpful in marriage, unemployment, illness, grief?
- How does this truth apply to Christians in the Middle East who are starving and/or being persecuted?

SUMMATION

- Fact: What is a key truth that you understood from this passage?
- React: What did you feel?
- Act: What are you going to do?