

**TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
IHOP BIBLE STUDY**

**# 14 Romans 8: 28 - 39, "Spirit Help: More than conquerors" -- with commentary**

**The purpose of the Letter to the Romans is to develop a "Model for Living the Awakened/Transformed Life." Today's study is the 14th of 27 lessons.**

**According to our Study Chart** we are studying the 3rd section of "Embrace The Work of Christ and the Spirit" This is one of seven sessions under the rubric of "Spirit Help." This is the second session in this series. Remember, the focus of the Book of Romans is to provide us "The Model For Living The Awakened/Transformed Life."

**KEEP YOUR "GUT TRIP ANALYSIS CARD" IN YOUR BIBLE FOR REFERENCE!**

**BACKGROUND:**

**Predestined to the form of Christ:** This is where Gut Trip Analysis comes in handy. What is the experience of being chosen? It is the experience of being accepted as a son or daughter. We are accepted for our relationships and not for our good deeds, nor rejected because of our bad deeds. In Head Trip Analysis, predestination becomes an object to be achieved instead of an relationship to be lived.

Personally, I like the definition because it keeps things in "The Way Life Is" category or in the indicative. This takes this experience out of the pressure of being an achievement that is an imperative or moralistic.

**The Good:** In Gut Trip Analysis The Good is the experience of the meaning of life: i.e., to live in the presence of God who is The Good. You'll remember Jesus reminds us not to call him "good Master," because only God is good. In the slogan we use to remember the dynamics of the Good News is the following: ALL IS GOOD, THE PAST IS RECEIVED, THE PAST IS FORGIVEN/FORGOTTEN, THE FUTURE IS OPEN.

This formula begins with the confession (affirmation, profession) that All is Good; that is, God don't make no junk! In Genesis 1, the writer expresses this information when after each stage of creation God pronounces it "Good!"

**I. Vss. 28 – 30: For what purpose are we called of God?**

(Remember the Gut Trip Analysis of the word "God" will help you a lot.)

**WS:** It is helpful to remember that the purpose of our creation is to bring praise to God, and in this way to experience and promote At-One-Ment and humane living.

A. What does Paul mean by the phrases "God foreknew," and "God predestined."

**WS:** In Gut Trip Analysis, God's foreknowledge is experienced in God's desire that all things be made At-One. Humanity and creation were predestined to live At-One with neighbor, self and God. In this way we fulfill Christ's Great Commandment.

B. Describe the experience of being conformed to the likeness of Jesus Christ. (Hint: Don't make this difficult for yourself. Use Gut Trip Analysis to ground the two words separately: Jesus and Christ )

**WS:** The term "Jesus" is experienced as the "Christ bearer." Also, his acceptance of the cross is representative of the form of the death of our "old personality." The

term "Christ" is experienced as the sacrificial spirit. This is the event in which we are awakened to our "new personality" as new life or the resurrection.

## II. Vss. 31 -- 34: What prevents us from answering God's call?

A. Paul asks who can be against us (Vs. 31), bring charges against us (vs. 33), and/or condemns us (vs. 34)? Name the one who can do these things.

**WS:** The ones who can do these things to us are those who are in denial concerning their creation for the awakened. The awakened life is lived in the presence of God.

**Vs. 34: How does Jesus Christ intercede for us?** Jesus demonstrates that we can die to living in wish dreams and denial of our intended purpose. On the other side of the cross, Christ demonstrated the abundant life lived in surrender to the presence of God as Perfect Awakening.

When our denial and wish dreams are dragged through JX they are transformed by the unconditional love and acceptance of us as awakened sons and daughters of God. It is through Christ that we experience this transformation.

TWLI	T	Embracing TWLI not as our enemy
Denial	H	Our acceptance as sons and daughters of God
Wish Dreams	R	Embracing Reality not as victims but victors
Old personality	U	Living in a transformed new-birth personality
		Living life as victors and not victims
	X	

Observe that this process does not change anything, but transforms everything. The Way Life Is will always be TWLI. However, when TWLI is dragged through Jesus Christ, we are transformed even though TWLI is not changed.

**Vs. 33b** "it is God who justifies." God's justification always is experienced as awakening.

## III. Vss. 35 – 39: How can we be separated from God's love?

A. **Vs. 35a:** Why can't we be separated from God's love? The reason is that we are created out of "God stuff." Yes, it is true we can be in denial and live in some wish dream of what life "could be," or "should be." But, life is not like this, life is our reality.

B. **Vs. 35b:** How does this list describe reality?

1. How does human reality NOT separate us from Christ?

(Hint: This is a tricky question. It is necessary to identify the human experience we have because of our relationship with Christ.)

**WS:** The list is trouble, hardship, persecution, famine, nakedness, danger, sword, facing death daily and considered to be sheep ready for the slaughter. All of these represent The Way Life Is.

The reason that none of these can separate us from Christ is that THROUGH CHRIST our relationship to TWLI is changed, it is transformed! TWLI does not change, we are changed in the relationship we take to TWLI.

**Vss. 37 to 39:** Paul makes an extensive list to demonstrate that there is nothing, anywhere, that we can escape the love of God. This is the fulfillment of our intended human purpose.

Of course, it is possible to deny that God's love exists, and/or to live some kind of wish dream of what life should be like.

C. How does Christ make a difference? (Make this Gut Trip Analysis, please.)

**WS:** Christ in God loves us as we are and not as we should be. God loves us as son's and daughters who do strange and hurtful things to others, themselves and finally to God at Perfect At-One-Ment. But God can not and does not deny us! God loves us as we are even as we are called to awaken to the humane life.

**Alright folks, talk to me!**