

SMALL GROUP LESSON

NOVEMBER 5, 2017

BEFORE YOU WERE BORN

ROMANS 8:28-31, PSALM 139, AND EPHESIANS 1:3-11

Have you ever felt like Chippie, the parakeet? You have been “sucked in, hosed down, and blown out in the trials of life.” Perhaps you find it hard to sing any more. You just want to sit and stare! Well, if that describes what you have experienced at times, take heart. Here is some good news. God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life, beginning with some fantastic blessings that He has bestowed upon all of His people. So let’s take a look at what is revealed unto us in God’s Word.

1. Throughout chapter 8 of the book of Romans, Paul describes some wonderful blessings that God has bestowed upon His people through the Holy Spirit. See how many of these blessings you can find.
2. In chapter 8 of the book of Romans, Paul states that we should, however, expect to experience suffering because of our allegiance to Christ. He also states that there are three reasons why this suffering should never overwhelm us. Read Romans 8:26-30 and see if you can discover these three reasons.
3. Romans 8:28-30 has been the source of a great deal of theological discussion down through the ages. What did Paul mean when he said that we are predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, and how does that fit with the idea that we can exercise freedom of will in the decisions that we make? As you consider this question, you may also want to refer to Psalm 139 and Ephesians 1:3-11.
4. Read Romans 8:31. What assurance does this verse provide for those who are God’s children?