

Easy As 1-2-3



Romans 8:14-28¹

It's As Easy As 1-2-3

Select where you would like to begin and enjoy!

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Overall Understanding

Chapter 8:14-28²

You will get much from this Overall Understanding of this passage, but we highly recommend the Detailed Study Notes (above), which go into more glorious detail about our relationship with God.

14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

We are followers of Jesus, but sometimes the meaning of this gets twisted to mean it involves effort on our part, even a list of spiritual exercises with Jesus in front of us and we trying to keep up with Him. It is completely the opposite. The Spirit of God is leading us. The word means to lead, to bring, to carry. The Holy Spirit is doing the work.

This also gets twisted to mean that if you want to be a son of God, learn how to follow. The opposite is true. Because we **are** sons of God, we are being led by the Holy Spirit,

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¹⁵For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.”

We were under bondage to the law. We didn't become Christians for the purpose of coming under the law again. Rather, we have the Spirit of adoption. God is not in the Holy of Holies, far beyond anyone's reach but the high priest. We are closer than that! We are the children of God. We have permanently entered God's presence, and His presence has permanently entered us.

¹⁶The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

The Holy Spirit convinces our spirit that we are God's children.

¹⁷and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him*, that we may also be glorified together.

“If” here means “since.” Since we are His children, we are also His heirs, AND joint-heirs with Christ. We will be glorified together with Him.

“All who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecutions.” It is just a fact. We don't need to seek out persecutions. They are automatic.

¹⁸For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

The word “consider” implies a calculation or inventory. The sufferings we experience while on earth do not equal the glories that will be revealed in us. It's like comparing the foothills to the highest mountaintop.

¹⁹For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected *it* in hope; ²¹because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. ²²For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. ²³Not only *that*, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we

ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.

All of creation joins with us in joyfully anticipating our delivery from the bondage of this earth and the bondage of moral, corruptible bodies. The redemption of our bodies refers to the moment when we will become incorruptible (no decay) and immortal (cannot die).

²⁴ For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for *it* with perseverance.

Hope means joyful anticipation. We do not see that for which we hope, or we wouldn't hope any longer. You hope/wait for a bus, but once the bus comes, you no longer hope/wait for it. We eagerly wait for that which we have been promised will come.

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

Formerly, we believed and taught that the groanings which cannot be uttered were speaking in tongues. Though we still believe this is a gift available to all believers, we now see this verse as something different. Our weaknesses can be mental, spiritual, or physical.

The Holy Spirit, whom Jesus called our helper, comes alongside us even when we don't know how to pray or for what. If you've "been there," then you know how that feels. Even at times like these, the Holy Spirit makes prayers FOR us so deep that they cannot even be spoken.

We are safe in assuming that these prayers are perfect and effectual.

²⁷ Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit *is*, because He makes intercession for the saints according to *the will of God*.

He knows our hearts. No need to hide. What rest. He knows the mind of God. He makes intercession according to the will of God.

We can trust Him. We can rest in His perfect intentions toward us and in the knowledge of God's will.

²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose.

We often say, "God causes all things..." but is that what it says? Read it again. It says, "All things work together..." So, instead of the concept of a case-by-case basis, we may see this as a principle that God has set in motion that continues.

Before continuing on that point, it is important to note that even though all things work together for good, it does not mean that all things are from God or allowed by God.

So many things happened that are evil. God will not do evil to His children. But we face persecutions and the troubles that so many others face on this earth. Storms rage, and sometimes, we are in their paths. But it does not mean that God blew our house down. It means that storms rage and sometimes we are in their paths. We can avoid some of this by getting out of a storm's path or getting into a basement. But a tornado isn't chasing you down because God sent it your way.

We mustn't take this glorious verse so flippantly. Rather, when storms rage, we can rest that this principle is already in place, all things will work together for good for those who love God. For example, you stumble and break your leg. God didn't allow it, but as you are on your way to the floor, you may confess, "By your wounds I am healed." "No weapon formed against me will prosper." "This will work together for my good." It's already happening because it is a principle of God's kingdom.

"To those who love God," used to be met with a question, "Do YOU love God? Are YOU called according to His purpose?" Thus, this sentence became yet another hurdle we needed to jump over in order to receive this promise.

Wuest, an amazing Greek scholar, translates it this way:

And we know with an absolute knowledge that for those who are loving God, all things are working together resulting in good, for those who are called ones according to His purpose.

All Christians are the called ones according to His purpose. All Christians are those who love God. It isn't something we earn or must fabricate. It is what it is. Again, what rest

Coming Up in Chapter 8:28-39

We will discuss the topic of predestination.

Paul declares that God is for us, not against us.

Paul discusses how it is we conquer in this life.

He speaks of the permanence of God's love in our lives.