

“IF GOD IS FOR US.”

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Scripture Texts: Romans 8:31-34

Introduction.

“What shall we say to these things?” It is almost like Paul is struggling to find words. These things are so great, so powerful and important. We have to say something, we must grasp the implications of all of these things.

Do any of you struggle with confidence and courage and certainty in our Christian life? Do you wonder and worry about whether you are loved by God, accepted by God?

There are two things in this life that discourage and defeat us, suffering and sin. These two things in all our lives conspire to fill us with doubt, fear, anxiety, lack of faith.

When we are covered up by these two things, it is very easy to fall into unbelief. After all if God is with us then why have these troubles come upon us? Since we sin so much and every day, how can we have any confidence God is not angry with us and against us?

Taking all things into account, everything about our lives, our sin, our suffering, our adversity, our weakness, our unworthiness, it makes sense why we would despair of life, and be filled with anxiety, fear and depression. Is God with us, does He care about us, does He love us or hate us? Paul concludes this great chapter by answering the question does God love us and how much does God love us.

If I asked you how much does God love you, how would you answer on a scale of one to ten? Does He love you? How do you know He loves you?

Paul answers by asking five questions here at the end of Romans 8. We will look at the first four this morning.

Romans 8:31, God’s divine disposition.

Think about how you would answer this first question if Paul had just asked, “who is against us?” Well, that would have a bunch of answers.

Satan and all the fallen, evil spirits and devils.

Ephesians 6:11-13 the schemes of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

The world hates God and His Christ and His Church and all it stands for.
The world hates our master, and we are being conformed to Him, they will hate us.

Our own sinful fallen flesh with all its desires, our indwelling persisting sin.

Romans 7:18-19 I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. 19 For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing.

All suffering, evil, and finally death itself. All of these things are against us.

But Paul doesn't ask that question. He asks, "If God is for us, who can be against us?" It is not a question ending in a question. It is a question ending in a statement.

Do you ever doubt if God is for you, if God is on your side?

Do you doubt verses 28-30? Do you doubt the resolve, purpose and planning of the omnipotent God, that He is absolutely 100% committed to your good and not your harm, that He foreknew us in love, predestined us to sonship and is conforming us to the image and likeness of Christ, He called us from death, declared us righteous by justifying us, and is working in us from one degree of glory to another until the day of Christ when He will bring us to glory?

What shall we say to all these things? If God is for us, what could possibly be opposed to us?

Psalm 23:4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil,
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

Even though I walk through the valley of Satan's attacks, his lies, deception, accusations.
Even though I walk through the valley of this world's assault on all that is true, saying we are wrong, the Bible is wrong, tempting us to doubt, God is for us.
Even though I walk through the valley temptation to sin, to click on that picture, God is for us. Even though I walk through the valley of thoughts of our weakness, unworthiness, not being good enough, not wise enough, God is for us.

Psalm 56:11 In God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can man do to me?

There is no power or force in the universe that can resist or overcome the arm of God. God is for you, therefore no one and nothing can be against us. No weapon formed against you can stand. Fear not, for I am with you.

Do you need a sign? Do you want some proof?

Romans 8:32 God's divine logic.

Again, think of how we might answer the question if Paul had only asked, "Will God not give us all things?" I don't know, I need so many things, how can I know if God really will come through on everything I ask. I might have some doubts about that.

Romans 8:32 He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

When we read this question it should remind us of a story in Genesis when God told Abraham to take his son Isaac up on a mountain to sacrifice him to the Lord. When God saw Abraham's heart, He stopped Abraham and spared his son.

But God went farther, He didn't spare His own Son but gave Him up, delivered Him up for us all, with all the horror of the death He died, the torture, the pain, the suffering, the dishonor, the rejection.

Nothing was harder than to sacrifice His own Son. Any father who has a son knows something of this. When a father loses a son, especially his first-born son, he never fully recovers.

This is the love of God,

This should remind us of John 3:16.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

In logic this is called an argument from the greater to the lessor.

If I am willing to loan you \$10,000 dollars, then I am certainly willing to loan you \$100. If I am willing to drive you to SeaTac airport, I am certainly willing to drive you to Costco.

If God sacrificed His one and only Son, the one thing of greatest value and worth and preciousness to Him, then He is certainly willing to give anything else of lessor worth. If God did the hardest thing God could possibly do, then we can know there is nothing else He would not do to bring us into glory.

Notice the similarity between 8:32 and 8:28.

Romans 8:28 We know that for those who love God *all things* work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

Romans 8:32 He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us *all things*?

II Peter 1:3 His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence.

This is the generosity of God. He gives us Christ and then He gives us everything that comes with Christ.

God chose you and God sent His Son to die for you. This is your birthright. You are bought with the blood of Jesus Christ. This is the proof of God's freely given, generous, unlimited love. Be absolutely assured and confident of the fatherly love, affection, favor of our God.

Romans 8:33 God's divine justice.

Who will bring a charge against us? Who will accuse us? That's easy, our conscience, our sin, our enemies, Satan himself.

In the midst of your most difficult struggles, your greatest afflictions, do you ever hear the enemies voice whispering God has abandoned you, forsaken you, no longer is a loving Father to you?

But the question is who shall bring any charge against God's elect, God's chosen, God's called? There is only one court, only one heavenly tribunal before which we will stand, it is God's court, God is the only judge. And if that Judge justifies us, well then, what else is there?

God is the one against whom we have sinned. It is God alone who can condemn and it is God alone who can justify. And once God has justified, then who can condemn again?

Isaiah 43:25 I am he who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins.

The path of our judgment is completely closed off when the Judge exempts us from all guilt and removes all punishment by paying it all.

Romans 8:34

Who can condemn? We who cannot be accused, cannot be condemned. There is not one single sin that is left remaining, that can be brought up. Not one.

Paul gives four grounds against the possibility of bringing any condemnation against God's chosen. Every condemnation fails on the basis of these four truths.

Christ's death.
Christ's resurrection.
Christ's enthronement.
Christ's intercession.

By Christ's death God's justice is satisfied by the atonement for sin through Christ's blood. Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

By Christ's resurrection. If Christ had not been raised our faith would be in vain, we would still be in our sins, and Christ would still be a prisoner of death. His resurrection is our resurrection. His victory and ours.

Anyone who tries to condemn us must first go through Christ. In order to condemn us that person has to first render null and void the death of Christ. The only way someone can bring condemnation against a believer in Jesus is over His dead and resurrected body. Who is going to do that?

Christ's enthronement indicates His finished work. He is in possession of all power and glory and honor and authority and He uses it all to defend us. He is the exalted head and king and mediator.

Even before we show up at the judgment seat of God, everything is already taken care of. The righteous requirements of the law are fully satisfied and the penalty has been paid, there is nothing more for the court to hear or do.

Romans 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

It is true, the devil accuses all believers, he is the accuser of the brethren.
And the Law of God accuses us all as lawbreakers, constantly falling short.
Finally, our own consciences remind us of our sin, guilt and shame.

But none of these hold sway or have any influence on the Judge who justifies us through the cross and blood of Jesus.

And what is He doing right now? The final ground of our security is ***Christ's intercession.***

He exercises His authority on our behalf in continuing to pray for us.

What is Jesus praying to the Father? Is He saying, "Father, look at Johnny, look at Susie, look at the good things they are doing, look at those times when they are kind, generous, helpful, not as selfish as they used to be. Did you notice those times when they treated their spouse or friends with love and kindness?"

No, Jesus pleads with the Father on the basis of what He did on the cross, He pleads on the basis of His own character, His own holiness and perfection. Jesus pleads on the basis of His own shed blood which cleanses and covers and forgives.

He says to the Father, don't look at them, look at me, look at my holiness and my righteousness, on my perfect keeping of the Law, all this I have done for them and give to them. Look at the complete forgiveness of their sin that I purchased for them on the cross.

Our salvation is secure not because of anything in us but because of what Jesus secured for us.

Do you think you can sin yourself out of your salvation that has been secured by the blood of Jesus? He will lose none of those who are His, who have been foreknown, predestined, called, justified and glorified.

Jesus continues to be our advocate and plead our case before the Father.

I John 2:1-2 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

Hebrews 7:25 He is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

Implications and application.

Satan brings the charges against us before God. Look at this poor, miserable, wretched sinner full of sin. How can you possibly declare such a sinner justified and righteous.

God says everything you say is true, and even worse. But look at the scars on my Son. I gave up my Son for him. The penalty has been fully paid, He bore all the pain and punishment. All of it. There is nothing left to condemn, nothing left to accuse!

Our security rests in the already fully paid penalty for our sin by Christ. He is sitting on the throne at the right hand of the Father with His pierced hands and feet and side. No greater love is there than to lay down one's life. This is love. If God is for us, who can be against us?