

God is For Us

Romans 8:31-39

7/ 17/ 05

Intro

Here we are in Romans chapter 8, one of the greatest chapters in the whole bible. Paul is making clear the results that come to us because we are in Christ Jesus.

Last week, we read about one of the greatest truths for us; namely, that God causes all things to work together for good for those who love God and are called according to His purpose.

We then saw that it was God's purpose to change us; to make us to be like His Son. This will be done; God will complete what he started. He justified us, by giving us the righteousness of Christ and He will glorify us as well.

Verse 31 becomes a capstone to the chapter. "What shall we say to these things? Since God is for us, who can be against us?"

God is for us, He is not against us. That's a startling revelation to some people. But this is the theme of this chapter and the rest of the chapter just adds power to this great truth.

These are insights into one of the greatest truths of the bible – God is for us.

I. God Gives to Us Freely

A. He did not withhold His own Son

- This is part of the logic of Paul's statement. If God did not withhold His own Son, would He withhold any good thing?

- This is to show how great God's love is – He did not withhold that which is the greatest thing possible. He did it because of how great His love is.

Romans 5:8, "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

I John 4:10-11, "In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another."

B. Why would He withhold any good thing?

- It would not make sense that God would go so far as to give His Son for our behalf and then withhold something far less than that.

Illus – If God made us His son or daughter, would he then withhold the clothes we need, or help us in time of need? In the same way, if we sacrifice so much in bringing a child into this world, would we withhold what the child needs?

Psalm 23:1, 6, "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want... Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

Matthew 7:9-11, "Or what man is there among you who, when his son asks for a loaf, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, he will not give him a snake, will he? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him!"

Illus – But this doesn't mean that we would give our child everything they may want. Our job is to change our child into godly adults; there are many things that would not be at all helpful. Sometimes you step back and let your child go through difficult things.

C. He has already blessed us

- This is such an important point to remember; He has already given us so much.
- He gave us His own Son, and everything that is behind the name of Jesus is already ours.

Ephesians 1:3-4, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him.”

II. Who Can Be Against Us?

A. Fear is to be removed

- When we truly understand and believe fully that God is for us; then the result is that fear is to be removed.
- The scripture says that perfect love casts out all fear.

Psalm 23:4, “Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me;”

- In other words, it is our confidence in God, our faith in His love that removes fear in the face of difficulties and challenges.

I Samuel 17:45-47, Then David said to the Philistine, “You come to me with a sword, a spear, and a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have taunted. This day the Lord will deliver you up into my hands ... that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, and that all this assembly may know that the Lord does not deliver by sword or by spear; for the battle is the Lord's and He will give you into our hands.”

B. Who can condemn us?

- Though this is an open question, the obvious thought is that even Satan cannot successfully accuse us, though he certainly tries.
- The scripture calls him “the accuser of the brethren.”

Revelation 12:10, “Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night.”

- Satan doesn't even have to lie about us; there is enough damaging evidence just with the truth.
- But Satan withholds information. The truth is that God is the One who justifies us in Christ,

- That is why we should not be afraid to confess our sin, knowing that we are fully justified in Christ...

I John 1:7-9, “the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

C. Christ is interceding for us

- Jesus Christ loves us so much that He died for us, was raised for us, and is now seated at the right hand of God interceding on our behalf.
- This fact should increase our faith. It’s part of God being for us.

Illus – There is an important truth in this world, that it is not so much what you know, as who you know. Many successful businessmen have believed their Rolodex (now Contact Manager) is more valuable than gold. But who is greater than the Lord and He is asking God in our behalf.

Hebrews 7:25, “Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.”

III. God’s Love is Sure

- A. Nothing can separate us from God’s love
- There is nothing left out of this list.

- It is interesting to see that tribulation, peril, etc, does not separate us from God’s love.
- Many people believe that God should keep them from such troubles, but the only tribulation He promised to keep us from is the Great Tribulation of His wrath on the earth.
- Otherwise, He doesn’t promise to keep us from the fire, only that he will be with us in it.

John 10:28-30, “and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one.”

Illus – When Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were thrown into the fire, it was God’s Son who was with them in it. God brought them through it.

Illus – There is an old saying that is so true, “If you’re going through hell; don’t stop.”

B. We are more than conquerors

- “In all these things...” we overwhelmingly conquer.
- We are conquerors because we overcome that which tries to overwhelm us.

I John 5:4, “For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world--our faith.”

- We are more than conquerors because it is not our strength or might that accomplishes any of it.

Illus – that is why we can truly be salt that adds flavor and light that illumines in this world without overwhelming. The power of our lives is the fact that God’s love is always ours, we have the Holy Spirit.

Zechariah 4:6, Then he said to me, “This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel saying, ‘Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,’ says the Lord of hosts.”

C. For I am convinced...

- This is the key – being convinced.
- This is the victory that helps us overcome. We must be convinced of how much God loves us.

II Timothy 1:12, “I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.”

Illus – I know this is a crisis of many people’s lives. If we could be absolutely convinced of this fact, it would truly change our lives.

Conclusion

What shall we say to these things? That’s the question of greatest importance. We should say something in response; we should do something in response. We should keep ourselves completely in God’s love.