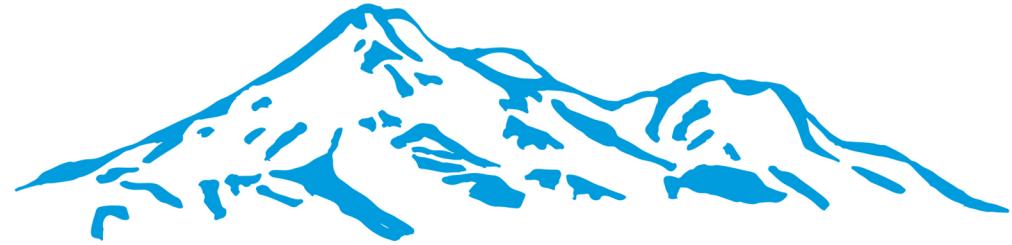


Questions

1. "If God is for us, who can be against us?" is rhetorical. It's really a turn of phrase. Paul's way of summarizing God's saving work in the gospel. Review chapter 8 and discuss how we have seen "God is for us".
2. How do the proofs that God is for us in verses 32-39 help us when we:
 - are unsure that God will come through for us? (v.32)
 - feel like Satan is accusing us guilty of our sin? (vv.33)
 - feel like we are alone and condemned for our sin? (v.34)
 - feel defeated by our sin and separation in our relationship with God? (vv.35-39)
3. Read Luke 22:31-32. What more do we learn about Jesus' present intercessory ministry for us in this passage?
4. The proofs in this passage are not commands to be obeyed, but truth claims to be believed. How should it encourage you that these proofs are not a "do", but a "done" in Christ?
5. What one proof from this passage would you like to take to heart and apply this week?



THE BIBLE'S SUMMIT

— A Sermon Series on Romans 8 —

God Is for Us

Romans 8:31-39

*Stuart McCray, Associate Pastor
April 2, 2023*

In Romans 8:31-39 Paul provides us with 4 proofs that God is for us to assure us of our secure salvation.

"If God is for us, who can be against us?" is rhetorical. It's really a turn of phrase. Paul's way of summarizing God's saving work in the gospel.

After all that Paul has reminded the saints in Rome of what God has accomplished for them and is now doing for them, Paul's culminating declaration is: God is for us, so *nothing* can *ultimately* be against us!

1) God Gave Up Jesus for Us (v.32)

Out of love, and for our sake, God the Father *did not* spare His own Son, *so that* He could *instead* spare us. God *did not* remove His wrath from His Son, *so that* His wrath would *never* be poured out on us.

If God was willing to do the most difficult thing—paying the infinite price in His own Son—surely, He is willing to do the far less costly thing of "graciously giving us all things".

2) God Justifies Us (v.33)

The Christians in Rome are to be *assured* that their right standing with God is *secure*—God is their Justifier—no one can successfully make a condemning accusation against them.

3) Jesus' Work for Us (v.34)

Jesus accomplished his work on the cross as evidenced by his resurrection; and because he rose, he is presently at the right hand of God; and there, at the right hand of God, Jesus is presently interceding on behalf of God's children...on behalf of his brothers and sisters.

Jesus is our great High Priest in the very presence of God. And his intercessory ministry is why he is able to completely save those who draw near to God through him. (Heb. 7:23-25)

Those who are by faith united to Jesus' life, death, and resurrection are not and will never be found guilty—condemned—for their sin. And, not only that, but Jesus *presently* intercedes for each of us; a ministry that assures us that our salvation is secure. (1 John 2:1)

4) God's Inseparable Love for Us (vv.35-39)

God's inseparable love for us is brought up three times in these four verses: in verse 35, verse 37, and verse 39.

In bringing up the Old Testament (Psalm 44:22 in 8:36), Paul wants to remind these Christians that they're not alone, the suffering of God's people should not be a surprise. It's typical for God's people to suffer.

The phrase "we are more than conquerors" is actually one word in the Greek, and it means "prevail completely". We maybe could restate this phrase as, "Superconquers".

The triumph isn't attributed to their self-determination or personal strength, but "through him who loved us." When trials and temptations would separate us from the love of Christ, it is *then*—in all these things—that Christ love for his people intervenes making us superconquers in those very things.

The word "For" in verse 38 means Paul is going to explain why he is sure they will be superconquerors in all these things through Christ who loved us. And Paul's surety, his firm and settled conviction, that they will be superconquerors through Christ who loved us is, nothing will separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.