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# AMEN Bible Study 2026

## “If God Is for Us...”

Romans 8:31-39  
February 5, 2026

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### Introduction

- A. The Early Church started with a robust JOY, a compelling HOPE, a deep LOVE
- B. Today’s Church is racked with chronic FEAR, ANXIETY & ANGER
- C. What makes the DIFFERENCE?

### I. God GIVES us “ALL THINGS” (v.32)

- A. With His Son, He Graciously gives Us “all things”
  - 1. Echo of Gen. 22 – God stopped Abraham, but not Himself
  - 2. Is God now going to “nickel and dime” us?!
- B. “Taste and See That the Lord Is Good” (cf. Ps. 34)
  - 1. Rom. 1-3 – All People, Irreligious and Religious, DEHUMANIZE themselves
  - 2. Rom. 3-8 – BUT GOD...RE-HUMANIZES us!!!!
  - 3. Those who seek the Lord “LACK ... NO ... GOOD ... THING” (Ps. 34:10)
- C. “All Things”???
  - 1. What about all He HASN’T Given Me?
  - 2. “ALL THINGS” to Make Us Like Jesus and Fulfill His Purpose for Us
- D. We have a CHOICE to make:
  - 1. We can Judge GOD’s GOODNESS to us Based on Life’s Ups/Downs; OR,  
We can Judge Life’s UPS/DOWNS, Based on God’s Goodness

### II. God FIGHTS All Accusations Against Us (“Who is He Who Brings Any Accusation?”) (v.33)

- A. Maybe an echo of Zech. 3
  - 1. High Priest is standing before God – human waste all over his priestly garments
  - 2. Satan is standing beside him, accusing him
  - 3. Every single Accusation/Charge is TRUE
- B. God knows every SIN, SHAME, WEAKNESS about Us
  - 1. Satan CALLS OUT each and every one
  - 2. God SEES each and every one
- C. God Himself JUSTIFIES Us –
  - 1. He’s the JUDGE & JURY, and He’s ALREADY Decided every charge!
  - 2. We are declared not merely FORGIVEN, but RIGHTEOUS

- D. **Our CHOICE: We can keep trying to make up for our Sin; OR, We can Stand Before Him, AS WE ARE, and Receive His DEFENSE**
1. John Forrester: "It is when ... people have the courage to expose [their real selves] to the gaze of [the real] God that they discover the love of God." (*Grace for Shame*)
- III. **God FREES Us from the CONDEMNED Life (v.34)**
- A. **"Condemnation" – the Penal Life Consequences (cf. 8:1)**
1. In the context of Rom. 8:1ff, this isn't primarily about the "Verdict"
  2. In Christ, We are FREE INDEED (cf. Jn. 8:36; Gal. 5:1)
- B. **Satan tries to make us live the "Condemned Life" anyway (v.34)**
1. Self-Condemnation – "Sinner" is still regarded as my MAIN identity
  2. Self-Deportation – self-banishment from deepest belonging
  3. Satan Knows that the **FREEDOM** of the GRACED is **CONTAGIOUS!!!**
- C. **OUR CHOICE: Carry ourselves like CONDEMNED Men; OR, Carry Ourselves like FORGIVEN Men, FREE Men**
- IV. **God LOVES Us in All Things (v.35-39)**
- A. **Context**
1. Scariest REALITIES Paul can think of (v.35)
  2. A 1000 yr. old Psalm asking: Is God truly FAITHFUL??!!! (v.36)
- B. **Nothing, No One Can Separate Us from God's Love**
1. God's Love makes us more than Conquerors
    - a. "CONQUERORS" – winning in the game of life, as it's currently played
    - b. "MORE THAN Conquerors": What if this is winning in a New Game... New Rules...New Greatness?
  2. Ray Ortlund: "The way we respond to our challenges determines whether we will confirm the world's suspicions that Christianity is just another selfish power trip or whether we will surprise them .... (*Isaiah: God Saves Sinners*)"
- C. **DEEPER Answer – "IN all these things, more than conquerors (v.37-39)**
1. NOT "Despite", "After", "Because of", BUT "IN" these very things
  2. "Overcoming Evil with Good" (cf. Rom. 12:21)
- D. **Our CHOICE: Try to get Jesus to Make Us Conquerors in Worldly Story? OR, Let Jesus make us "More than Conquerors" in Kingdom Story?**
1. Ray Ortlund: "If you choose the first way, you will be endlessly frustrated. God will always seem to be against you, and you will have no fortitude. (*Isaiah*, p. 220)
  2. Jack Miller: "One Central Conviction has come to me: it is that pride and self-centered ambition crowd the love of God out of my life." (*Heart of a Servant Leader*, p.62)

## Conclusion

- A. "To the parents of a child dying slowly of cancer, a promise such as 'in all things God works for the good of those who love him,' might ... seem hollow at best, or a mockery at worst. But because this promise is backed by a Person with a history, it can be believed: "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." (*A friend whose teenage daughter died of cancer*)

# **AMEN Action Steps**

*“If God Is for Us....”*

**Romans 8:31-39**

## **HEAR the Word**

*“Open my eyes, that I might behold wondrous things out of your law.”*

*-Psalm 119:18*

1. To what extent do my friends and family experience you as a man who is full of joy, hope, and love? And to what extent do your friends and family experience you as a fearful, anxious and maybe even angry man?
2. What, if anything, in today’s lesson makes your heart (if not your head) answer skeptically, “yeah, but....”? Who might you talk that issue through with?

## **PRACTICE the Word**

*“...Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on a rock”*

*-Matthew 7:24*

1. What does it look like to “carry yourself as a forgiven man”? A “generously graced” man? A “truly free” man? A “loved” man? Who in your sphere of relationships exhibits these transformations best? What is it about how he lives and carries himself that makes you say, “He carries himself like a Romans 8 man”?
2. Which of the four “choices” in today’s lesson are the ones you struggle with most? What makes it/them most difficult for you?

## **RETELL the Word**

*“Go home to your own people and tell them how much the Lord has done for you...”*

*-Mark 5:19*

1. To what extent are you like Peter BEFORE the Cross and Resurrection, who “CAN’T speak” in favor of Jesus but denies him three times (Lk. 22:54-62)? And to what extent are you like Peter AFTER the Cross and Resurrection, who “Can’t BUT Speak” of what he’s seen and heard (Acts 4:20)?