

FBC Zoom Service Sunday May 16 2021 Romans 8:31-39 God Is For Us

“What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us? Since He did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't He also give us everything else?” (31-32)

Of all the books in the Bible, Romans is right up there as one of the greatest. Of all the chapters in Romans, **certainly Romans 8 is the greatest**. There are many who hold that Romans 8 is the greatest chapter in all of God's Word.

Verses 31-37 bring together the major truths of Romans 8 in the form of **five hard hitting questions**. The questions pile up one after another—**bang, bang, bang, bang, bang**, like shots out of a high powered rifle.

Question # 1: If God be for us, who can ever be against us? 31 (On Screen)

This is the question that the people of the world want answered. Is there a God, and if there is a God, is he for us or against us? When Paul says if God is for us, he's not saying maybe he is and maybe he isn't. It can be translated **“Since God is for us”** or **“Because God is for us.”**

There's no truth more fundamental in all of God's Word than this truth. God is for us. He's not against us. God is not neutral towards us. Because of Jesus Christ, once and for all the question is settled. **God is for us.**

All that God is, all that God has and all that God does, He does on behalf of His people. Even those times when He may seem to be acting against us, if we could only look behind the veil, even in those times, we would understand that God is for us.

Name the enemies of the people of God? Can the devil stand against us? No, because he was defeated at Calvary.

Can the world stand against us? No, because Jesus has overcome the world.

Can the flesh destroy us? No, because in Jesus Christ we overcome the pull of the flesh.

This is one of the most comforting truths in Scripture. **Those three words, “God for us” – that's the gospel in a nutshell.** So how do you know that God is for you, not against you?

Question # 2: Will God hold back on us? 32 (On Screen)

“Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else?” **Here we have the question of provision.** Will God hold back anything that His people need? Paul answers this by giving us an argument from the greater to the lesser.

Paul is saying if God has already given us His son, if he's done that for us, will He hold back anything else that we truly need? **The answer is no. If He's given us His son, He's given us the best that He has.** He'll hold nothing back that His people need.

It's like going into a jewelry store and deciding to buy a sparkling and expensive diamond ring. You put down your money and you can't wait to get your diamond ring. You say to the jeweller, "Oh, by the way, don't forget the box?" What would you think if the jeweller said, "Oh, no, you can't have the box, you just bought the ring." **If you buy the diamond, the box comes with it.**

Or suppose you enter a contest and win a Rolls Royce Phantom—a car that would cost you well over five hundred thousand dollars. You go into the exclusive dealership and say, "I'm here to pick up my car," and the sales manager says, **sure, "it's all ready to go!"**

Excitedly you get in your gleaming, plush new car to drive away, but in amazement find there are no keys. You say, "Hey. Where are my car keys?" They say, "Oh you just won the car, **you didn't win the keys.**" No, if you win the car, you win everything that's necessary to drive that car off the lot.

In the very same way, God has given us His son, the Lord Jesus Christ. He has not held back the best that heaven has. Will he hold back from us food? **No, he won't.** Will he hold back from us water? **No, he won't.** Will he hold back a job? **No, he won't.** Will he hold back from us answers to our prayers? **No, he won't.**

Since he has given us the greatest, **won't He also give us the least?** He will. If he's given us His best, will he hold back the rest? **No, he won't.** If God has done this much we may be sure that if we need anything else, He will supply it for us. **Why? Because God is for us.**

Question # 3: Who can successfully accuse us before God? 33 (On Screen)

"Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies." This is the question of protection. What if someone wants to accuse us before God? Can anyone bring a charge against us and make it stick?

First in line is the devil who can't wait to testify against us in the court of heaven. In a loud voice he says, "You have to get rid of this guy! What a bum he is! He's a sinner! Did you see what he did? Did you hear what he said? Do you know where she went last night?"

Who is there who can bring a charge that can stick in the ears of Almighty God? **The answer is no one!** Not even Satan! Why? **Because our text tells us it is God who justifies.** The word justification means to be declared innocent of all charges.

Who can bring a charge against the people of God? Shall the law bring a charge against us? No, because all the law was fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

Shall the devil bring any charge against us? He sure can try but it won't work, because he was defeated at Calvary by the Lord Jesus Christ.

What about our own consciences which often rises up against us? Our consciences have been cleansed by the Lord Jesus Christ. Not anyone, not any angel, nor any demon, nor anyone in heaven or on earth or under the earth, or anybody we know, could bring a charge against us in the ears of God.

It is God who justifies when we put our trust in Christ for time and eternity.

There's no one who can bring a charge against us which will ever cause our salvation to be in jeopardy. Never will God will listen to that charge. For the sake of His son, our Saviour, He has justified us. When God justifies a person, you stay justified. When God says not guilty, nobody can ever condemn you, nor can you be guilty again. **God is for you, not against you.**

Question # 4: Who can condemn us? 34 (On Screen)

"Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is interceding for us." In this world there are many people who condemn us. Our friends and even our loved ones sometimes whisper and pass rumours about us.

When we fail, others rise quickly to condemn us. Sometimes the condemnation comes from people at work, even from our own families, or people down the street. We live in a world where we are condemned for our failings.

The devil is always ready to rise up to condemn the people of God, and our consciences rise up to condemn us because at times we don't even live up to our own standards. Well, who is it that can condemn us and make it stick? **The answer is no one.**

When he died, Jesus paid the price for our sin completely and forever. When he rose from the dead, he defeated Satan once and for all. When he ascended into heaven, he was seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

Now that Jesus is in heaven, he is always praying for us. When we sin, and when we are condemned and when our friends turn against us, and when we fail to meet up to our own standards, Jesus says, "Father, I plead my blood!" **The precious blood of Jesus is more than enough.** Who can condemn you before the throne of God? Nobody can. Jesus who lives in heaven makes intercession for us.

Question # 5: Who can ever separate us from the love of God? 35-37 (On Screen)

"Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? As the Scriptures say, "For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep." No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us."

What a question! Can anything ever separate us from the love of God? The answer is no one. That teaches us that **those he loves, he loves forever. Those he saves, he saves forever.** Sometimes Christians worry about whether their faith is strong enough to take them to heaven. They get scared and say, "I'm hanging on to Jesus. **But what if I lose my grip?**"

That can happen. But if your salvation depends upon your hanging onto Jesus, you could be in trouble. It's like a little child who's hanging onto her father's finger. The child is doing well until she begins to slip. As she falls, the child accidentally lets go of the father's finger.

But when dad reaches down, he doesn't grab a finger. He grabs a hand. When the father grabs hold of the child's hand, it's not the child hanging onto the father. **It's the father hanging onto the child.**

May the Lord impress upon us this vitally important lesson. You're not going to heaven because you're hanging onto Jesus. **You're going to go to heaven because Jesus is holding onto you.**

Our text gives us seven things that somebody might think can separate us from the love of God. He says what about trouble? **No.** Hardship? **No.** Persecution? **No.** What about Hunger? **No.** Destitute? **No.** Danger? **No.** Death? **No.**

All these things could happen to the people of God. You could have hardship. You could have trouble. You could someday face death. You could someday be destitute. You could someday be living in hunger. You could someday be persecuted for your faith. Someday, all these things could happen.

Verse 36 is even stronger. This is a quote from Psalm 44, *"For your sake we face death all day long. We are considered as sheep to be slaughtered."* That, too, may happen. Martyrdom is a terrible reality for some of God's people scattered around the world.

Not everyone today has it cushy like we have it here in Canada. Not everybody around the world has a lot of money. Not everybody around the world has a good job. Not everybody around the world who loves the Lord, can get in a car and drive away.

That's exactly what Paul is talking about. Whatever we face, we are more than conquerors.

Let's learn the great lesson that Jesus still loves us even though we may be going through a hard time physically or spiritually.

Jesus still loves us though we may be persecuted for our faith. Jesus still loves us though our marriage may be failing. Jesus still loves us though the world may be against us.

Here's a thought that may cheer you up. Trouble can take many things away from the people of God. It can take our happiness away, it can take our prosperity away, trouble can take our health away, it can take our friends away, but there's one thing that trouble cannot take away from us.

Trouble cannot take away the love of God which is in Christ Jesus. That's why we can overwhelmingly conquer even in the worst that life has to offer.

Verse 37 says we are more than conquerors through Jesus Christ who loved us.

That means we can face anything the world has to throw at us. Had a bad week? You're a conqueror. Facing a bad week? You're a conqueror. Hard times ahead? You're a conqueror through Jesus Christ. No matter what may be thrown at you, you are a conqueror if you are joined by faith to Jesus Christ.

We are more than conquerors. You say "How can that be?" Consider this. The only things that trouble can take away from you are the things that don't ultimately matter. The things that really matter, **trouble can't touch.** Your life with Jesus Christ, the forgiveness of your sins, your justification with God, the inner joy of the holy Spirit—**the devil himself can't steal that away.** That makes you more than a conqueror.

This is possible only through Christ who loves us. **The cross is our only hope.** As long as we are linked with Jesus Christ, we will overcome.

Through Jesus Christ, we are more than conquerors. Satan cannot stop us. He can slow us down, he can knock us down, but he cannot stop the church of God.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, I pray that you will drive this truth home to us as we leave this service in a few minutes.

May we leave victorious because through Jesus Christ you have made us more than conquerors.
Amen.