

Intro. When God Did Not Hold Back

1: Scripture Romans 8:31-32

Let's pray. Our Lord and our God, we ask that by the Spirit, You would bring the truth of your Word home to us, comforting or convicting, strengthening, and causing us to praise You for the blessing that You have given to us in Jesus, in whose Name we pray, **Amen.**

We've been spending time in Romans 8 over the past weeks looking at some of the most powerful Scripture in all of the Bible. But folks, right up front I have to confess, the passage before us today really moved me in the depth of its meaning.

There had to be tears in Paul's eyes as he wrote this.

"What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us?"

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

Romans 8:31–32 is one of the most hope-filled and powerful passages in Scripture, centred on God's unshakable love, divine protection, and generosity

It's one of the most triumphant declarations in all of Scripture—a verse that doesn't just ask a question but silences every fear with its answer.

2: Paul's words in Romans 8:31 are not timid musings; they are a trumpet blast of assurance for the weary, the burdened, and the uncertain.

In a world that often feels stacked against us—where trials come uninvited and opposition seems relentless—this verse stands like a lighthouse in the storm.

It reminds us that the God who formed the stars, who did not spare His own Son, who raised Christ from the dead, is not merely watching over us... He is for us.

Not neutral. Not distant. Not conditional. But for us.

3: And if that is true —and it is—then no enemy, no hardship, no shadow of doubt can ultimately prevail.

Name the enemies of the people of God. Can the devil stand against us? No, because he's been defeated. 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. Therefore, let the people of God be bold. **Who dares to stand against us if God be for us?**

Today we will explore what it means to live in the light of that truth. Let's open our hearts to the God who is for us—and discover the strength, the peace, and the purpose that flows from that eternal promise.

Many of us struggle with really believing that God is for us. We say we believe it, and I don't doubt that we really do. But many of us have a hard time really taking that in.

4: Sometimes it's our circumstances that make it hard for us to believe that God is for us. So much so we question how can this glorious truth be true. **For others, it's background issues.**

Maybe it's the sudden loss of a precious loved one or a terminal health diagnosis. Or a broken relationship with a family member that makes it very difficult for you to really accept that you are loved in totality by the great God of the universe.

"What then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?"

He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things??"

Paul wrote these words with a very practical purpose in mind.

The Roman Christians to whom he was writing needed to be assured of God's love for them, and the assurance that the God in whom they had put their trust was for them.

Paul points them to this magnificent demonstration of the love and grace of God. He says to them, here is the measure of God's love for you. This is how you can know that God is for you.

5: In those moments when we question the love and goodness of God, and we ask if we have or can find the resources to continue, Paul is waiting for us in these great verses.

And he's here to offer to us conclusive proofs that God is for us.

That if you're a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, who has rested on Him alone for salvation, that God is for you.

6: We See God's Love for Us Because He Was Involved in Our Redemption

Paul tells us that we see how much that God is for us, in the Father's involvement in our salvation. Look at what he says. *"He did not spare His own Son. But He delivered Him up for us all."*

Now in what I am about to say, please understand I do not want in any way to diminish the involvement of the Lord Jesus Christ in our salvation.

I do not want to denigrate for a second the unique work of Jesus on the cross of Calvary.

But I want you to understand that that's not Paul's focus here in Romans 8:32. His focus is on the love of God, the Father.

7: It is God the Father who did not spare. It is God the Father who delivered up His Son

It's vital that we understand this truth: sometimes we mistakenly imagine God the Father as distant or unwilling in our salvation story—almost as if Jesus had to convince Him to love us or to take part in redeeming us.

But that's not how Scripture presents it at all. Romans 8:32 shows us a very different picture: the Father Himself gave up His own Son for us.

That act wasn't reluctant—it was purposeful, loving, and deeply involved from the beginning.

8: He loved. He sent

Indeed, it all began with the Father's love. **He loved. He sent.** He helped the Son through His earthly ministry.

He is the one who rendered up His Son as a sacrifice for our salvation.

It's so important that we catch this Biblical emphasis as we contemplate the truth set before us here, and we contemplate the truth of God being for us.

9: Glory Revealed Through the Cross

When we look at the cross, we are greatly moved by what we see happening to the Lord Jesus Christ. We sing about it and so we should. We preach the Cross and so we should. But how often do we pause long enough to think how the Father was moved by what was happening at the cross?

When we go to Old Testament passages like Genesis 22, we read of Abraham being called to offer up his son Isaac.

As we hear every syllable of that directive being driven home, “Abraham, Abraham, take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love and offer him up as a sacrifice to me in the land of Moriah,” **we know that Abraham's heart is breaking.**

Moses doesn't have to put in a verse to say, and by the way, Abraham was absolutely brokenhearted at the thought of losing his precious son, Isaac. **We know that. Moses doesn't have to tell us that.**

Abraham was a mere shadow of the Creator who made him, and Abraham's heart of compassion and love for his son was a mere shadow of the love of the Heavenly Father for His son.

10: How can we think that the Father is looking at Calvary and being unmoved by what he is seeing?

When we hear Joab, David's general, come in in 2 Samuel 18:33 to announce that Absalom, the traitorous son, the son who had attempted to take the kingdom away from King David, has been killed in battle by the troops of David, we understand the reaction of David that Joab absolutely didn't get.

When David tears his robe, and goes into mourning and cries out, “Absalom, Absalom, my son, Absalom, would that it were I who had died instead of you,” **we understand that kind of love.**

But David's love for his son Absalom, was simply a pale reflection of the love of the Heavenly Father for His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

And if we take that into account, then there is no way that God the Father Himself, is unmoved by the spectacle of what is happening on Calvary. And not only what is happening on Calvary, **but what He is causing to happen.**

: 11 The Purpose of the Cross – For Us

The Father longs to answer the question Jesus cried out, My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? Because it's His precious Son who is on the cross.

And we see the Father's **for-us-ness** in the fact that He is involved in the rendering up of His own Son.

We think of the Son losing the Father's face as He bears the wrath of God for us on the cross. **But so often we forget to think that corresponding to the Son's loss, there is the Father's loss.**

Just as the Son comes to that point where He loses the sense of the Father's grace and presence and love, so also the Father comes to that moment, as He faces the loss of His beloved Son.

When we pray Abba, and when we say our Father, let us remember how the Father loved and how the Father was involved and how He bore the cost, and how He endured the pain, and how He did not spare.

A realization of the Father's involvement in our salvation is absolutely essential to healthy Christian experience.

Do you want to know how God is for you? Do you want to know how much God is for you? **Look at the Father's involvement in our salvation.** He didn't have to be coaxed into this work of redemption.

It was His plan, and He effected it at every point and was involved at every point along the way. **He didn't have to be dragged into it; He produced it.**

12: We see in verse 32, how it emphasizes **The Divine Glory of the Son.** **He did not spare His own Son.** Paul is telling us that we see how much God is for us when we contemplate the exceeding preciousness of the Son.

It is His own Son, whom the Father has given up.

The Son was loved as no human Son has ever been loved.

When we hear those words of God to Abraham in Genesis 22, *"Take your son, your only son Isaac. The one that you love."* Every syllable of that directive pierces our hearts, because we know what is going through Abraham's mind.

We know the loss that he is contemplating in this precious son of his.

When we hear those words can we not contemplate the preciousness of the Lord Jesus Christ to God the Father Himself.

But on the cross, all that glory, and all that relationship and all that love was obscured.

If you and I had been standing at the cross, we would have seen what all the non-disciples saw. **That is a condemned criminal.** Perhaps a thief, or a rebel, or some sort of a lawbreaker.

He was in the form of a man. He was scarred, He was marred, He was bruised, He was beaten, and there was nothing of glory about Him.

There was nothing about Him which would have indicated that this was the one Being in the universe that God loved more than everyone else.

13: That this was the most valuable thing in the world to the one true and living God. **But that's not what God the Father saw when He looked at the cross.**

When He looked at the cross He didn't see a man who was despised and rejected and forsaken.

He saw His own Son. He saw the Son of His love. He saw the very last person in the universe that He wanted to be there.

The very last person in the universe that He wanted to bruise. The very last person that He wanted to forsake.

I want us to pause here, and reflect that the Lord God of Heaven and earth is laying on the Son who is exceedingly precious to Him, the sin of the world.

Jesus who had always been an obedient Son. Jesus who had always caused His heavenly Father delight.

We read the story of his baptism, and the Father publicly announcing Him to the world as He speaks from heaven, *"This is my Son, my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."*

The Father broke forth in His love for the Son, and announced it to the world, this is the Son of my love and I delight in Him.

At the mount of transfiguration, when just for a moment the veil was pulled back, and that inner circle of disciples could see for just a few moments the true glory that was the incarnate Son of God, the voice comes again: **This is My Son, the Son of My love. Listen to Him.**

Then there are those words that come to the Lord Jesus just a few days before He would die. The shadow of the cross is looming over him and His heart is deeply troubled.

He says, Father, don't allow this to go on without You getting the glory for it. And the Father again speaks from heaven, **I will glorify it.** And the Father delighted in the work of the Son.

But it was on the Cross of Jesus greater love had never been seen.

There had never been a point in his ministry, where the heavenly Father wanted more to say, **this is My beloved Son. Look what He's doing for you.**

But when the Son cries out from that tree, *"My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"* **there is no answer.** My brothers and sisters, I want you to think deeply about this.

We think about Abraham, and we think about David, and we think about all those Old Testament parallels, but you know the thing that is so striking about this passage is what's unlike those passages.

Because Abraham, as he raises the knife, hears this voice from heaven **which says, don't touch him.**

When the death angel approaches Jerusalem, and David prays to God to spare the city, there's this word from heaven, **cease, do not destroy. 2 Samuel 24.**

But when the sinless Son of God is on the tree of Calvary, and He renders up this cry in all his agony, My God, My God, why have you abandoned Me? **There is no voice.**

Because the Son is bearing our sin. He was bearing the curse that we should have borne.

We'll never understand the cross until we understand how intense the love of the Heavenly Father was for His Son on the cross; or how glorious was the obedience of the Son for His heavenly Father on the cross.

Friends, contemplation of the preciousness of the Son in His obedience to the Father, and the cost to the Father leads us to a deeper appreciation of God's for us. **Paul tells us God is for us.** Look at the Father's involvement in salvation. God is for you. Look at the preciousness of the Son.

14: The Totality of the Son's Sacrifice

But He's still not finished. Look again at verse 32 where He says, "*He did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all.*" How clearly this shows how much God is for us.

These words emphasize not only the Father's involvement, and not only the Son's preciousness, but they emphasize the totality of the Son's sacrifice.

Jesus taught that He was going to be delivered up, And He said, I'm going to be delivered up by the most godly men of your time.

The religious leaders, the Sanhedrin, the Scribes, the Pharisees, the Sadducees, they are going to deliver Me up. **And His disciples didn't want to believe it.**

And then the most horrendous thing we find in Matthew 27, verse 46, where Jesus makes it clear that in the end it was not the Jews, and it was not His disciples, and it was not Judas, **it was His Father who delivered Him up.**

Paul picks that up in the words he uses here. **He the Father, delivered Him up for us all.**

Delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, Peter would say, in Acts chapter 2, verse 23.

In that great passage in Isaiah 53 he puts it, it pleased the Lord to bruise Him. He has put Him to grief.

When He bore the bruising, when He was delivered up, and when He was not spared, He was absolutely singularly alone. No one stood with Him. He took it by Himself.

And thanks be to God, He stood there for us.

16: Ironies

It's one of the great ironies of the Christian faith that when we get to the gates of glory, by the grace of God through Jesus Christ, we may meet every person there.

But we'll never meet anyone who knows what it is to be forsaken by God, **except the Lord Jesus.**

Because on the Cross, alone, by Himself, as the old hymn says, he took our sins and our sorrows, he made them his very own, he bore the burden to Calvary and suffered and died alone.

17: The Costliest Gift Paul's word to us here is that this is the costliest free gift ever given. And we are the recipient of it. You can't imagine a gift more costly, yet it's freely offered to us.

18: The apostle is saying, do you want to know how much God is for you?

A thousand times yes, He's for me!

Since He is for me, who can be against me?

With that great encouragement we can face anything.

Let's pray.

Our Lord and our God, bring home Your word, we pray for Jesus' sake, **Amen.**