

God For Us

Romans 8:31: "What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who against us?"

Lord, we come and bow down in Your holy presence. There is nothing like You. We rejoice that we have a living hope in Christ. We rejoice that we are a part of that family of God. We rejoice that we can come before You and pray and ask that You would open Your Word because it is something we cannot do. I always think of Peter on that day when so many of Your own turned back because they were offended, and You turned to Your disciples and said, "Will you also go?" And he said, "To whom shall we go?" Not to what shall we go, but to whom shall we go? And he said, "Lord, You alone have the words of eternal life." This is the One we come to. Release Your Word; speak to us. We wait upon You. We are dependent upon You for speaking, for hearing, and certainly for the working out of Your Word. All those things You promised as we come to You together today in the mighty, mighty name of Jesus. Amen.

The Great Assurance

We will press on with the burden that I have been sharing from the Word concerning three phrases in the Bible that have deeply impressed me. First, the phrase, "God with us." As I meditated more upon it I thought of that wonderful phrase "God for us." That is what we will be sharing on today. And then sometime in the future I will share on "God in us." I have said that these three phrases seem to give the highest assurance. They seem to communicate to us the trilogy of God's great assurance to us. Can you imagine "God with us"? How wonderful that is! Can you imagine "God for us?" If that was not true how could we live? And can you imagine beyond all of that "God in us?" How unspeakably wonderful and unimaginable that assurance is!

Your know, this divine assurance is something that we may not be able to fully comprehend in this life, but it is surely something we can know, and should know. Three parts I have shared on, "God with us," the assurance of His unfailing presence. Thank God for that. "God for us," the assurance of His unlimited provision. And "God in us," the assurance of His unparalleled power. Think of that! All of that is made available to us in Christ Jesus, unspeakable assurance. Assurance beyond anything we could imagine or ask.

Today, on this part, "God for us," the assurance of His unlimited provision, I would like for us to think about three things. The *assurance* that God is for us is a wonderful thing; we ought to understand it. We ought to meditate on it. We ought to consider it. It will make such a difference in your Christian life and our life together as the church. But secondly, why do you believe this? And that thought is the *abundant proof* that God is for us. Throughout the Word of God, there is abundant proof that is true. You may doubt it in difficult circumstances, but it is inarguable when you look at the Scriptures. There is abundant proof. Thirdly, the *absolute answer* of why God is for us. I think you will know where we are going.

The goal that is in my heart, is to communicate, if I can by the Spirit of God, this deep assurance, to answer some of our questions when we go through difficulties and trials, and to explain why this is so absolutely important. If the Spirit of God can do this, I believe He will be able to erase all doubt. Doubt is a cancer, a malignant cancer. It eats at your very life. It destroys

your very being from inside out. It works upon your heart, and it stifles your spirit. It keeps you from being able to rise to that height with the assurance to know “God for us.” So that is what I would like to do if the Lord would allow today.

The Assurance that God is for Us

Let’s first consider the assurance that God is for us. There is no doubt, by the way, that God is with us. We have already covered that ground. There is no doubt; it is a theme that runs from the beginning of the Word of God to the end of the Word of God. It is the assurance of His unfailing presence. And even when the Lord spoke those last words to His disciples He said, “I will be with you even until the end of the age. Thank God for that assurance.

But brothers and sisters, there is much more. As a matter of fact, I like that phrase in the book of Hebrews because it puts that whole letter into context. If you have never noticed it, you should go back and read it. It is that phrase “more,” and it is that extended phrase “much more.” And when it comes to God’s assurance to us, there is “so much more.” Another phrase in the book of Hebrews says that not only is God with us, but God is for us. I know sometimes we doubt that. Not only is His presence unfailing, but His provision is unlimited. We need to think about these things.

Remember what Paul said in Colossians 1:9: “For in Him all the fulness of the Godhead is pleased to dwell.” This is an exhaustless resource. I remember when I took my two classes in college on economics there is one thing I will never forget. I forgot everything about macro and micro and everything else the professor said. But he said one thing in class that in all these years I have never forgotten. He said, “The study of economics is the study of how nations deal with limited resources.” I thought that was a profound thing. Then I thought of the Lord Jesus and the unlimited resources that are in Him. Thank God for that unlimited provision.

In Colossians 2:9 Paul wrote to those believers, “For in Him dwells all the fulness of the Godhead bodily; and ye are complete in Him.” How wonderful! Thank God for that! In that unlimited resource, in that bountiful supply, in that unlimited provision, we have everything we need in Christ Jesus to live out a full and victorious Christian life. I think that is wonderful. Darby said this when he was explaining these verses. He said, “The fulness of completeness of the Godhead is in Christ.” I do not think you would doubt that. But he said, “It was as toward us. And we as toward God are complete in Him.” Think of it! That is what we want to deal with today to hopefully cause us to appreciate deeply this assurance God has given us.

You know, people come to you sometimes and say, “I am with you.” I am sure you have heard people say that, “I am with you.” But then you wonder where they disappeared to when the going gets tough and the tough cannot get going. We wonder. But God says that He is with us, and He will never leave us. But he doubles down on that. Not only does He say, “I am with you,” He says something further. Paul spoke of it Romans 8:31: “I am for you.” That is a whole different level. He is for us to the end, and to prove He is for us, and to show us He is for us, He has given all of these unlimited resources and provisions that we can live a full Christian life both as individuals and together. I think this is wonderful!

Peter spoke of how at the end he came to that assurance. In II Peter 1:3 he said: “As his divine power (that is the emphasis) has given to us all things that pertains to life and godliness.” Isn’t that wonderful?! Can you imagine if Peter were telling those ones dispersed, “Well, I hope you make it to the end; just hold on.” He did not say that. He said to those persecuted and discouraged saints in the dispersion, “By His divine power He has given us everything that pertains to life and godliness.” Now that is an unlimited supply. That is an unlimited provision. Throughout the Word of God you see how others discovered this great secret. It made a difference in their lives.

You remember how David said in Psalm 56:9: “Then shall my enemies return backward in the day when I call.” And I am so thankful that verse did not end there. He said, “This I know, for God is for me.” That was his secret. “For this I know, for God is for me.” What a difference it made in the King David’s life!

I think of Psalm 118:6-7 “Jehovah is for me, I will not fear; what can man do unto me?” And if it were just once it would be enough because it would be absolutely true in the assurance we need. But he did not say it just once; he said in verse 7: “Jehovah is for me among them that help me; and I shall see (my desire) upon them that hate me.”

This is the assurance that was given to the children of Israel, and this is the assurance that God gives us as His New Testament people. It is assurance that God is for us. It was a specific word of assurance given to the children of Israel in their darkest hour when they were in captivity.

This was said in Ezekiel 36:9-11 which was just the assurance they needed: “For behold, I am for you, and I will turn unto you, and ye shall be tilled and sown. And I will multiply men upon you, all the house of Israel, the whole of it; and the cities shall be inhabited, and the waste places shall be builded. And I will multiply upon you man and beast, and they shall increase and bring forth fruit; and I will cause you to be inhabited as in your former times, yea, I will make it better than at your beginnings.”

What assurance! They were in captivity, and the testimony of God was gone. Then He ended it by saying, “And you shall know that I am Jehovah.” How will you know? Because I am for you. That is how you know.

I remember a story that I read about the Latin word ‘pronofus’ meaning ‘for you.’ There were two brothers riding in a car, and this one fellow picked up his friend’s phone and he noticed that he had this strange password ‘pronobis’. And when he asked his friend what it meant, he broke into tears. That friend explained to him of the dark moment that he went through in his life—devastated. He thought like Peter; he turned his back on God because he thought he had lost the presence of God. Then one day in that darkness the light of the glory of God appeared to him and transformed him. His testimony that day was that he had experienced real healing. So he said that his password really is ‘God for us.’ Just make sure you do not forget the first thought—‘God for us.’ That was his secret, and He was forever changed when he discovered this single secret.

Think of this verse in Ezekiel 36:9-11: “For behold, I am for you.” He said, “I will” five times. It is kind of like in Jeremiah 31 when Jeremiah was spoken to about the new covenant that God

would make with the house of Israel. And over and over the secret of the new covenant and the difference between the new covenant and the old covenant was, “I will.” Just two words. And here he said again in Ezekiel, “*I will turn unto you. I will multiply upon you man and beast. I will cause you to be inhabited as your former times, yea, I will make it better than at your beginnings, and you shall know that I am Jehovah.*” What wonderful words! This is the assurance that God is for us.

How do We Know God is for Us?

This is the second point of the abundant proof that God is for us. Think about this question very carefully: How do you know God is for you? Have you ever thought about that? Has that question ever come to you? I remember thinking and meditating about these messages. Maybe it is my lack of faith, but that question kept arising in my heart as I thought more and more. How do I know God is for me? How do you know that God is for you? It is true, it is in the Word of God. And in the Word of God there is abundant proof that God is for us. It is proof that is so full it can no longer be doubted. It is so full that there is no longer any question left at the end of it that God is for you and God is for me.

I remember a verse in Acts 1:3 which was before the Lord was raised in His ascension, and this explains what the Lord did. I want to read from the Amplified Bible. Sometimes it is helpful to read the Amplified. Sometimes it may be too many words, but in this case I think it is perfectly appropriate.

Acts 1:3: “To them also He showed Himself alive after His passion (which means His sufferings in the garden and on the cross) by a series of many convincing demonstrations, unquestionable evidence and infallible proofs, appearing to them in those forty days and talking to them about the things of the kingdom of God.” Many convincing demonstrations, unquestionable evidence, infallible proofs. This is how we can know that God is for us. At the end there is no question.

Many Infallible Proofs

Another thing I would like to mention is that the Bible is a judicial Book. I do not know if you look at it like that, but I think it is a judicial Book. It is about the supreme Being and the supreme Judge and His eternal case about man and even against man, and in the end, for man. That is how I believe you could describe the Bible in a nutshell. It is a judicial Book. It is a supreme eternal court case, if you will, with a supreme judge upon the throne right to the end.

The Love of God

I think of several things that are this ‘unquestionable evidence’ or these ‘many convincing demonstrations’ or these ‘infallible proofs,’ and some came to me immediately as I thought about it. First of all is the love of God. It is an infallible proof that God is for us. You remember Romans 5:8 in the New American Standard Bible:

“But God demonstrates His own love towards us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

The emphasis in this verse is that God demonstrates His love for us. Now I could come up to you after the meeting and say, “Brother, I love you. You know that, don’t you?” And you would say, “Well, where is the proof? I have never seen it in you. You are all words.” God is not all words. The emphasis without doubt in the Scripture is that He demonstrated His love for us in that while we were yet sinners, (we were not His friends at that point) Christ died for us. I think that is one of those ‘many convincing demonstrations.’

Jeremiah 31:3: “Yea, I have loved you with an everlasting love. With loving kindness have I drawn you.”

Think of it. He did not just love us momentarily when He saved us. He loves us with an everlasting love. Brothers and sisters, I am going to define that word ‘everlasting’ for you. There is no end to it. We sang just a while ago “O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus, vast, unmeasured, boundless, free.”

I will never forget Brother Aykroyd who was a captain in the Navy, but he was a very straight man. He sat up here one Sunday before he spoke, and he said, “We must sing this hymn, “O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus.” He said, “We must sing it. We must look at the words!” He thought it was the best hymn there was. It goes into a description of the love of God that is almost unparalleled in Christian song. Now you have to slow it down. You have to concentrate on it. Do you think that is a convincing proof? Do you think that is unquestionable evidence? Do you think it is an infallible proof? It is indeed.

Ephesians 2:4 takes it further. It says, “But God, being rich in mercy, because of his great love wherewith he loved us.”

Not only was it everlasting love, it was His great love wherewith he loved us. Unfortunately, we use ‘great’ about most everything now. We use it about pizza. That was a great pizza, brother, thank you for ordering it. That was a great super bowl the other day. What a great day I had yesterday walking in the park. But ‘great’ should be reserved for God. Great should be reserved for His great love wherewith He loves us.

My English professor got on me about a paper I wrote one time that had far too many ‘greats’ in it. She got all over me. “Mr. Pittman, you use great too much. It becomes meaningless if you use ‘great’ that much. It is never meaningless when it comes to our great High Priest or the great Bishop of our souls or the great love of God which is inexhaustible. It never becomes old.

Ephesians 3:19: “And to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge.”

I do not know if you have seen all these words in Ephesians when you read it, but Paul always takes Ephesians to a higher level with superlatives. As a matter of fact, that is why the commentators who have written about Ephesians say it is the high watermark of spiritual revelation. He is always taking it one step further. And he tells us in Ephesians 3:10 that the love of God surpasses knowledge. Thank God we can know it, but how wonderful it is that we can experience more and more of His great love. This is one of the proofs, infallible proofs. This is one of the many demonstrations. This is unquestionable evidence. This is how you know God is for you.

God Chose Us

Secondly, God chose us. Now you may have a little trouble with that, but apparently He did not. You remember what it says in Ephesians that He has chosen us before the foundation of the world. I think of choosing like this: "Well God should have chosen the best, but it seems as if He chose the worst."

I remember when I was growing up as a little boy, we used to play baseball twice a day in the summer. I looked forward to summers because I was out of school, and I could play baseball morning and afternoon, sandlot baseball, real baseball. As a matter of fact, I have never told you this story, but my mother used to collect S & H green stamps. Only the old people here know what S & H green stamps are. She had them all in one drawer in our dining room, and it was overflowing with S & H green stamps, and she was going to get something very special for herself. One summer day I was home from school, and mischievous boy that I was, I took all of those S & H green stamps and put them in the books. I cashed them in and I got a bat and a ball and a glove, and mom wondered where her S & H green stamps had gone.

When we would go and play ball twice a day, morning and afternoon. The two captains would throw the bat, and then you grabbed the bat. If you dropped the bat, you were no longer a captain. You would grab the bat and do the hand-over-hand, and the one who gets to the knob has the first choice. He was so happy that he had the first choice, and he would choose the superstar, but the little Johnnies are left to the end. There he is waving his hands, "Pick me. Pick me."

God did not choose the best; God chose the worst. We were dead in our trespasses and sins. We were without hope. We were without God in this world. There was nothing in us that spoke of righteousness, and yet God's first choice was us. Isn't that wonderful? Isn't that absolute proof that God is for us? I believe it is unquestionable. He did not come to a point where He said, "Okay, everybody else is gone; I will choose them." It says that it was in His heart from the beginning, from the foundation of the world He chose us. Often I think of Hebrews 3 where it says that He did not choose the angels, fallen angels, by the way, but He chose the sons of Abraham. I wonder if in eternity there is going to be a bunch of offended angels and a bunch of happy Christians. He chose you. That is a convincing demonstration. He chose you not because of you, but He chose you because of Him. That is infallible proof that God is for us.

Well, He did not just choose us to save us. He chose us to be that most precious gift to His Son. It is almost too good to be true. He chose us to be the body of Christ. When we think of the body, it is the closest thing to you. He chose us to be the house of God. Home is a most precious thing, and God chose us to be that special gift.

Not only that, He chose us to be the bride of the Lamb. How much more wonderful can the assurance get than that! It is hard for me to imagine. Praise the Lord.

Salvation

I think of salvation. The Lord saving us is one of the many infallible proofs. I think of the children of Israel. They were saved from Egypt which represents the world of course. They were saved from bondage which represents Satan's control over our lives. They were saved from the death angel which is our destiny as mankind. They were saved into the Promised Land which was God's unlimited provision, that land flowing with milk and honey—inexhaustible resources. That is how much He is for us. That land of Israel, by the way, was just a shadow, a type. The real inexhaustible resource is Christ Himself. In Him is everything we need and will ever want, and it is God's absolute proof that He is for us. The Lord saved us. Thank God!

Hebrews 9:27-28 says, "And forasmuch as it is the portion of men once to die, and after this judgment; thus the Christ also, having been once offered to bear the sins of many, shall appear to those that look for him the second time without sin for salvation."

This verse along with other verses makes it clear in the Bible that salvation is not just a one time experience. It makes it abundantly clear that salvation is a lifelong experience. It has a beginning; when we are saved, we are forever saved; thank God for that. I am not one of the holiness group, although when I was first saved in the Charismatic movement, I hung out with the holiness groups. But they believe that you can lose your salvation again and again. I will tell you a secret; one of our brothers was a Fundamental Baptist, and they would have to come up for altar call again and again to get right with the Lord. You can never lose your salvation. You never can. We believe once saved, always saved. Thank God for that assurance! Never forget it.

But we believe also that salvation is a process, which many Christians do not understand. It begins with that initial salvation, but it goes all the way to the time when you will appear before the Lord, and that salvation is actually a making process. This is what Peter meant when he said, "Receiving the end of your faith, the salvation of your soul." Now does that mess your doctrine up if you believe salvation is only at the beginning and once saved always saved? The end of our faith is the salvation of our souls. God is doing a work in you throughout your Christian life of conforming you to His image, the image of His Son. He is transforming you from what you were to where in the end when you see Him, you shall be like Him because you shall see Him as He is. It is a true spiritual metamorphosis. This is the process of salvation that goes from the beginning to the end.

It says in Hebrews 7:25 (KJV): "Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost (not partial salvation, full salvation) that come unto God by him, seeing he ever lives to make intercession for us."

I think that is wonderful assurance. I think that is infallible proof. I think that is a convincing demonstration that God is for us. We are saved from the world; we are saved from death; we are saved for eternity, but that is only the beginning. And then we come into this process of being delivered from self, delivered from being dominated by sin and being united to Christ in such a way that He becomes our life and we are able to overcome as He overcame. In the end we are completely delivered from this body of death, and we are completely delivered from the presence of sin. I think Paul understood quite well this on-going process.

In II Corinthians 1:9-10 it says:“ But we ourselves had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not have trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead; who has delivered us from so great a death, (that is initial salvation) and does deliver us; in whom we confide that he will also yet deliver us.”

Brothers and sisters, this is how you know God is for you. He delivered you, and you will live for eternity. If you do not do another thing, when you believed in Him, you will live for eternity. You will not get to experience the Millennial Kingdom if you stay in that state, but if you allow Him to continue to work on you, to continue to mold you, to continue to transform you and deliver you from the tyranny of self and make you one of His sons, then your reward will not only be eternity but it will be the kingdom for a thousand years. How marvelous! What assurance that is! This is the full salvation.

Blessings

I think of blessings. Some people are always talking about the blessings. I remember years ago Lewellyn Miller beat it into my thick head, and I will never forget it. She talked about knowing the Blessor and not just the blessings. That changed the course of this assembly. That was the difference. Remember that tract by A. B. Simpson, “Himself”. “Once it was the blessing, now it is the Lord.” How wonderful! What a difference it made.

In Ephesians 1:3 the apostle Paul opened that letter right at the beginning by saying, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies in Christ Jesus.”

Not just one, not just some, not just many, but we have been blessed with *every* spiritual blessing in the heavenlies in Christ Jesus. Brothers and sisters, that is absolute proof that God is for you. How wonderful! I think of that old hymn, “Count Your Many Blessings.” How many people do you know that count their many blessings? I was singing in the shower over and over, “Count your many blessings, name them one by one, count your blessings, see what God has done. Count your blessings, name them one by one, count your many blessings, see what God has done.” What assurance that is! It is not just many blessings. When Paul shared that height of Christianity with the Ephesians, he said, “We have been blessed with *every* blessing in the heavenlies in Christ Jesus.” How marvelous!

I think of another story. Dear old Ray Walker changed my life. Here is a lady that was a paraplegic. By the way, she was beautiful. Can I emphasize that a little more? *She was beautiful!* She was the Thalhimer and Miller and Rhoads model for this area. Now that was a big deal. When I grew up, you went downtown to Thalhimer and Miller and Rhoads. That is where we shopped, and Ray Walker was the model. She was in a car crash and it left her a paraplegic, but in that she discovered the depths of the Lord Jesus, and it changed her life. She always used to pray and quote this wonderful Psalm 40:5:

“Thou, O Jehovah my God, has multiplied Thy marvelous works, and Thy thoughts toward us: they cannot be reckoned up in order unto Thee; would I declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered.”

I will never forget that. It made a deep impression. That sister, if you were ever around her, even in her wheelchair, was full of joy. We used to carry her up the stairs, and poor Ray thought we might drop her. But she was full of joy, radiant joy. What an awesome assurance that is!

Promises

And then there are the promises of God as well. God's unlimited provision causes me to think of His promises. In II Peter 1:3 it says: "According as his divine power has given us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to glory and virtue, whereby he has given to us exceeding great and precious promises that by these we may become partakers of the divine nature."

How wonderful are His promises! How inexplicable and wonderful they are! That is how you know God is for you because of these exceeding, great and precious promises. They are His unlimited provision; they are not just words. I think of the anonymous and anointed writer of Hebrews and the point he makes in Hebrew 6:13, 18 about the promises of God. He makes these two profound points. Number one, everything is based on the promises of God. Might I add that you please remember the unfailing promises of God. Secondly, He made an equally important point. He said, "God who does not lie made these promises." Now that ought to be unshakable assurance.

Now if I come along this afternoon and say, "I promise you something." Be wary; think about it. But if God says to you, "I have promised these exceeding great and precious promises, you can believe it. You should believe it because it is proof that God is for you."

Grace

There is one last thing in this second point which is grace. The saying about Rome is, "All roads lead to Rome." Have you wondered about that idiom? What on earth were they talking about? Now I believe all roads in the end lead to God, but all roads lead to grace and then God. Everything is grace. All is grace. How marvelous that is! They said that that saying came from Rome. The masters who laid out Rome made the center of the city in such a way that all the roads merged and came to the center of Rome. That is where it comes from. But with us the assurance is that all roads lead to God and to His grace. How marvelous that is!

I think of Paul who wrote thirteen of the twenty-seven books of the New Testament. I do not know if you have noticed it, but in all thirteen of the twenty-seven books which is just about half of them, he begins with grace, and in all of them he ends with grace. He had such an appreciation for the grace of God. You remember that experience he had of the thorn in the flesh; it is unforgettable. In II Corinthians 9:12 you remember Paul had exceeding great revelations, and God was concerned that he might get a little puffed up. Now if I had just had half of those or one of those, I would certainly be puffed up. But Paul had these exceeding great revelations in which he heard things unmentionable and he saw things unmentionable. So God gave him a thorn in the flesh, and that thorn in the flesh is called a messenger of Satan. Now God spoke to him personally, and the message He gave to him was this: "My grace is sufficient for thee." *My grace is sufficient for thee.*

I think of Ephesians again and that great introduction Paul gives us in Ephesians 1:7 about the riches of His grace. In the second chapter in verse 7 he talks about the surpassing riches of His grace which shall be displayed in us, demonstrated in us in the coming ages. This is God's proof that He is for us. How marvelous! I think this is wonderful when you think about it. The place that grace is to have in our lives seems to me to be such a key. Then in the end Paul, in his own testimony said in I Corinthians 15:10: "But by God's grace I am what I am;" Is that your testimony? "And His grace, which was towards me, (remember God for us) has not been in vain; but I have labored more abundantly than they all, but not I, but the grace which was with me." How marvelous!

Well if you are not convinced yet, you may not be convinced. There may not be sufficient proof for you in the Bible. There may not be more convincing demonstrations. There may not be unquestionable evidence for you, so God makes it clear. He goes one step farther.

Paul's Closing Argument

Romans 8 is the closing argument of the book of Romans. It goes to a different section after Romans 8 into election with Israel and the Gentiles. Then it goes into the practical expression of living in the body of Christ and ends on those notes. But when you come to chapter 8, you come to God's closing argument of why God is for us. That is where that verse 31 comes from, "If God be for us, who against us?" That is the absolute answer that God is for us. It is one of the monumental closings in Scripture. The book of Romans is a masterpiece. It begins with man who has no hope, and in him is no righteousness at all; he is condemned. There is not one righteous, no not one. But then it says that God who is for us actually takes that man, who has no redeeming value, saves him and justifies the ungodly. Think about that! That is proof that God is for us. Then it goes further than that. It takes that justified man in chapter 6 and puts him in Christ Jesus where they are fully identified with Christ, and then they are able to serve in newness of life. That is how much God is for us.

Then he comes to chapter 7 which many people do not understand. What on earth is chapter 7 about? It was God's last chance to convince through the apostle Paul that we cannot live the Christian life in our own strength or our own capacity. Paul said, "Oh wretched man that I am. Who will deliver me from this body of death?" God was just proving His eternal case. "Okay, I have saved you. I have redeemed you. I chose you. Then our response: "I will live for You, Lord." Think of Peter, "Though all others deny You, I will never deny You." And Paul, that great man, came to the end of himself in despair, and then comes that wonderful closing in chapter 8 of Romans where he ends. The glory of it, the pinnacle of it is saved to the end in those last verses. "If God for us, who against us?" I have often referred to this as the closing argument of God's case against man. It is a legal case, and this is the great closing argument. And this is the closing argument that he concludes with, that God is for you. That is the final case.

I remember being transfixed with the nation's trial of O. J. Simpson. It was won in the closing argument. Johnny Cochran with that hat on his head said, "If it does not fit, you must acquit." He had the gloves and this great football player took those gloves, and what an acting job that was like nothing he had ever done in all of his movies. He pulled that glove on his hand, and Johnnie

Cochran who managed all of this said, "If it does not fit, you must acquit." It was the key argument. He was acquitted forever.

The key argument of God is, "I am for you, and you are forever acquitted." No one can bring a case against you. It is over, case closed. God who was the judge became the defender, and usually in closing arguments you had the prosecution stand up and present their case at the end to seal the deal. And then you have the defense stand up and present their case after the prosecution and then just so they are fair they let the prosecution present their case again with a rebuttal. There can be no rebuttal to this assurance. This assurance, 'God for us 'will forever stand.

When you read these verses in chapter 8:31-39, you will find they are brilliant, much more brilliant than Johnnie Cochran's. There are seven questions. Now don't get hung up that they are questions because those questions answer all the questions. If God be for us, who against us? As a matter of fact the 'be' was added. Darby has it in his square brackets so you can understand in English to smooth it out, but it literally means, "If God for us, who against us?" These questions erase all doubt. Now you might get hung up on that "if God." You might be a melancholic, you might be one of these people who gets depressed and have a hard time believing God is for us. 'If—'certainly that means there is a big question there. I read something so marvelous in the Greek which says, "That 'if' does not mean there is a possibility that the that God is not for you; it is a certainty that God is for you. That is the difference. How marvelous!

And those closing arguments go on. They give the absolute and only final proof that God is for you which ends that case and dispels all doubt. And for everyone who wonders if it can be true, this is the great assurance that it is in fact true.

The Ultimate Argument

It says in verse 32: "He who, yea, has not spared his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not also with him grant us all things?"

Think of that! That is the absolute proof. There can be no higher proof. There can be no more convincing demonstration, there cannot be more than this. I have often heard doctors say, "I can do no more." And I have heard and seen patients, many whose hopes were dashed when he said, "I can do no more." Such a negative word. But in this context it is such a positive word. God is saying, "I can do no more than what I have done. I gave you the crown jewel of the Godhead." He who did not spare His own Son, how shall He not with Him grant us all things? I think that is one of the amazing questions and that is the absolute answer in the end.

At the closing of this chapter we find another point. In verses 34-39 there is one word, and basically that word is 'nothing'. Nothing can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus. Nothing is the closing argument. Nothing! Now what part of nothing is something? Have you ever thought about that? There is nothing. As a matter of fact, it says, "Neither," and then nine times it says, "Nor, nor, nor." That happens to be perfect English, but it is better doctrine. Nothing, neither, nor. And Newell explained it this way: "Paul took us to the mountain top of Christian experience, and upon that mountain top, upon that peak, he shared the discovery of all

truth that God Himself is for us.” How beautiful! Can you imagine a higher assurance than that? It is hard to imagine.

Today we have looked at this one phrase, “God for us.” We considered the assurance of this unlimited provision. Today we raised one question: How do you know? The enemy is going to raise that question to you for the rest of your life. How do you know? “Did God say?” “If You are the Son of God...” Doubt is a cancer that will destroy. We have seen the answers to the questions, many convincing demonstrations, unquestionable evidence, and infallible proofs. Today, we have seen how this closing argument erases all doubt for those that the Spirit of God can communicate it to, and in the end our testimony should be what the apostle Paul’s testimony was. He said these words: “I am persuaded.” Are you persuaded? May the God of glory help us. Your Christian life depends on knowing God for you. Our Christian life together depends on knowing God for us. This is the secret that was revealed in Romans 8:31-39.

Lord, we just bring words back to You that we know don't communicate the real depths of what is in Your Word. We are asking You by the Holy Spirit that You would communicate to us deep in our spirit these secrets from Your Word and cause us to be a people full of hope and full of assurance that if God for us, who against us? We commit all of this to You and give You all the glory. In Jesus name. Amen.