

Transformed, Part 15 Romans 8:31-34 “God is For Us”

What is your first reaction to this statement?

God is for you!

A) Does it cause your heart to well up with excitement?

Aa) Does it **ignite within** you a desire to worship?

1) Or an excitement to Serve/ God is for me!!! WOW!

B) Or Is your first reaction disbelief? Really?

1) Is it doubt – why would God be for me? Greg Laurie – sure – Billy Graham – yes – Chuck Smith –

C) Me? Sometimes I wonder – does God even know that I exist.

Today we are picking up in v. 31 of Romans 8 where Paul declares **“31 What then shall we say to these things?”**

A) Now he’s obviously referring to the things that he has just been saying here in Romans chapter 8 –

B) but I think we can safely go back even further, to all the things he has been saying from the beginning of this presentation.

“31 What then shall we say to these things?” -

- The truth that we’ve been justified freely by His grace through faith in Christ.
- **The truth that we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.**
- The truth that God’s love has been shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit.
- **The truth that there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.**
- The truth that we are the children of God, and heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ.
- **The truth that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that will be revealed in us.**
- The truth that for those who love God, everything works together for good.
- **The truth that we’ve been predestined to be conformed to the image of God’s Son.**
- The truth that our glorification is so certain that God speaks of it as having already been accomplished.

These are the great and glorious things that Paul is referring to when He asks this question – **“31 What then shall we say to these things?”** -

Paul finds himself speechless.

Important to note: the emphasis in each and every one of these things is on what God has done for us.

A) I point that out because the common tendency in the Church today is to always want to put the emphasis on **what we can do for God.**

B) But the pattern of Scripture is always to first point out what God has done for us so that what we do for God is always a response to that.

C) Rhetorical question = statement – **“31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?”**

This verse literally reads, “Since God is for us, who can be against us?”

A) Personal: Since God is for Rob Salvato, who can be against him -

B) Well, you can say there could be a lot of people against him / true – list

1) but here is the point, if God is on my side who cares! That is all I need to know - God is for me !

C) David Psalm 23 **The Lord is my shepherd I shall not want!** - no other need

D) Psalm 27 **“The Lord is my light & my salvation of whom shall I be afraid.”**

David vs Goliath

A) Gideon 300 vs 185,000 Midianites

B) Elijah surrounded by an Army – Protected by an Army of Angels

C) One w/ God is a majority !

When Abe Lincoln was the Pres. During the crisis of the Civil War a timid young soldier came to him & said I am so worried about the Lord being on our side

Lincoln who was a believer, responded – **“I am not worried about the Lord being on our side - I just want to make sure I am on His side.”**

THAT IS WHAT REALLY MATTERS!

And that’s what we really want to zero in on as we think about this text –

God is for us. He’s not against us.

A) And yet so often the picture has been painted of a God who is against us.

William Newell explains that

“Our weak hearts, prone to legalism and unbelief, we receive these words with great difficulty: God is for us . . .

We have failed Him; but He is for them. We are ignorant; but He is for them. We have not yet brought forth much fruit; but He is for us.”

We have the tendency to think God is disappointed with us. Not true.

A)God is for you. And He’s for me.

B)God views His people very highly and loves His people very deeply.

C)Why? Because He sees us in Christ - He already sees the end product.

1)We’re already glorified in His eyes.

Paul wants us to live with this Confidence – God is for us – so no one or nothing can really be against us.

A)to put it in the words of the prophet Isaiah – “No weapon formed against you shall prosper.” Isaiah 54:17

B)Or as the Psalmist put it – “You shall not be afraid of the terror by night, nor of the arrow that flies by day, nor of the pestilence that walks in darkness, nor of the destruction that lays waste at noonday. A thousand may fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right hand. But it shall not come near you.” Psalm 91

Isn’t that awesome!

A)Nothing can defeat God’s purpose to bring us –

“whom He foreknew, predestined, called, justified and glorified.”

B)Paul wants us to have **absolute and total and complete confidence** in God’s ability to finish the work that He began in our lives.

C)Which should also greatly affect our attitude in the present,

1)that whatever the **Challenge, the obstacle**- God is for us

D)We can live with confidence/ we can live at peace, we can rest in the Lord, we don’t have to worry.

1)GOD IS FOR US!

How can I really know that God is for me?

A)Especially when the situations going on in my life make me FEEL – like He is not?

Answer “32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?”

B)Since God has already given us the supreme and costliest gift of His own Son,
1)how shall He fail to lavish every other gift upon us?

C)In giving His Son, He gave us everything.

1) So you see, if God’s already given us everything, **would it stand to reason**, would it be logical

to think that somehow **He's going to fail** to provide us with the rest that we need to ultimately attain to what He's predestined us to?

D)No, that wouldn't make any sense.

If He gave you His best then is going to leave you hanging now?

A)Gave you His best when you were His enemy –

B)Don't you think He is going to take care of you now that **you are His Child?**

C)Let's say that the local LEXUS dealership calls & says you have been selected as the winner in the 2013 Lexus ES luxury Sedan –

1)Drive to your house parks in drive way - TV crews - Newspaper

D) Is he **not going to give you the keys ? - Psych**

Proposal - Diamond – and hold back the box ?

Listen He gave us the very best - He is going to take care of the rest - He will w/ hold nothing in taking care of us .

A)We do struggle with that at times, though, don't we?

B)I mean, we struggle sometimes with –

- whether or not God's going to take care of us,
- whether or not God's going to provide for us,

- whether or not we're going to make it from week to week.

C)When you're struggling with that, just stop for a minute and think – Wait! –

1)God's already given His best.

Remind yourself

A)He's already given the ultimate.

He's already given us Jesus.

B)Is He going to fail to give us these other things that He promised to us, these things that we need?

1)Of course He's not going to fail –

C)Especially in regard to bringing **us to the intended destination, that place of being glorified together with Christ in Heaven.**

D)There is great security in Christ!

A wealthy Roman had a son who broke his heart and a slave who commanded his deepest admiration. He decided on his deathbed **to disinherit his son** and leave everything to his slave, Marcellus. He drew up the papers and called in his son to tell him what he had done. **'I have deeded everything to the slave Marcellus,'** he said.

"However, you may choose one item from my estate for yourself." "I'll take Marcellus, was the son's reply.

When He took Marcellus, He got everything!

God the father Gave His Son for us – so that if we would take Christ we get all that God has for us !

Got Christ?

2 Peter 1:3

“His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him.”

A)Get to know Jesus. Simply Jesus!

B)We get Jesus – we get everything!

C)Get Jesus- Do you get Jesus? Do you understand Jesus – His heart – His love.

Now that leads to the next question that Paul asks - “33 Who shall bring a charge against God’s elect?

A)A charge – takes us into the realm of the courtroom. – Prosecuting attorney is going to bring up the charges against us. –

B)Satan who is called the accuser of the brethren in Scripture, is the Prosecuting attorney

1)He accuses us before God day and night, He is the main answer to the next question. Who is he who condemns?

C)Although our own hearts condemn us too. Self condemnation - Reflect past actions. Also there are Critics who seek to condemn us

D) In reality Satan is working through all of that – Fiery darts – thoughts

Who can bring a charge...? Here is how - Paul answers - it is God who justifies.”

A)Paul’s argument is that no prosecution can succeed against us since God our judge has already justified us.

B) I love that he did not simply say – that God has forgiven us – or pardoned us –

1)Justified is so much stronger – Declared righteous

C)Just as if you didn’t sin

Satan can bring all the charges he wants to – and they can all be true –

A)But the point – Paul wants us to catch – is this – those charges will never stick, because God’s already declared us to be righteous.

B)Because: v.34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.

C)God the Father declares us Righteous because Jesus died in our Place and He rose to impart His life and righteousness to us.

D) Always the gospel – Jesus died and rose –
1) He continues – He is presently at the right hand of the Father – making intercession for us.

1 John 2:1-2

And if anyone SINS, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. 2 And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

A) John says – when anyone sins – know this we have an advocate = Defense attorney – one who pleads our case} **V.34 = Makes intercession**

B) Is He pleading that we are innocent? No – He is pleading – that He is the **propitiation for our sins**

1) Propitiation = THE SATISFACTION.

C) Jesus came and satisfied the justice of God when He died on the cross for our sins.

So Satan comes, accuses us – Jesus steps in – Paid in full – RIGHTEOUS !

A) There's an amazing picture of this very thing found back in the prophecy of Zechariah 3

B) Joshua the High Priest is standing before the Lord - Satan accusing him.

1) Joshua was in filthy garments symbolic of us, sin & guilt. -

C) What could Satan bring up about you today ?
What bad thought - what unkind word ?

1) What unrighteous deed? –

First time I read this passage – low point – I was feeling so condemned -

A) He could accuse each one of us ! Just like he accused Joshua –

B) Yet we read in the text that the Lord rebuked Satan –

1) Then He took off the filthy garments and covered Joshua in rich robes = robed in righteousness

And to him He said, **“See, I have removed your iniquity from you, and I will clothe you with rich robes.”**

C) That is what He has done w/ us ! Rich robes of the righteousness of Christ

God is for us!

A) How know? – He gave His son – Jesus died for us – He died to pay the price for our sins –

B) But He also rose – He lives – His life imparts life to us.

C) God is the one who has declared us righteous. He's justified us, and He's clothed us in the righteousness of Christ.

D)We can have confidence that no such thing is going to happen –

that our sins have been forgiven,
that all of our past has been dealt with,

And not only that, but that we have been declared righteous in God's presence, and clothed in that righteousness.

A)And one day –we will be presented to Christ – as a spotless bride – perfectly righteous

God is for us! – In Christ = Believer

A) If you are in Christ – Rejoice, God is for you!

B)But there is an opposite to this – If you are not in Christ – God is against you.

1)Still lost in your sin! –

D)Satan can accuse – but there is no advocate -

And If God be against you, who can be for you?

A)If you are an enemy to God, your very blessings are curses to you.

B)Your pleasures are only the prelude to your pains.

1)Whether you have adversity or prosperity, so long as God is against you, you can never truly prosper.

C)If God is against me – I am doomed

How shall I face Him in the day of judgment?

1)ANSWER – YOU CAN'T, DOOMED – What did you do with my Son?

But that does not have to be your plight today

1John 2"again: "And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. 2 And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world."

Such a powerful verse- Jesus came to be the satisfaction for Sin – not just ours – but also for the world.

Stones - Can't get no satisfaction – YES YOU CAN!

Believe in Jesus!

John 1:12

"But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name."

YOU TODAY! – PRAY

CHURCH, REJOICE – GOD IS FOR US!

**SITUATION
OBSTACLE
CONDEMNATION
NEED**