

Romans 8:31-39

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.

Tonight we are going to finish Chapter 8 of the book of Romans.

A) Such a great chapter – because it addresses our Past our Present and our Future

B) **Concerning our Past** - Verse 1 declares there is no condemnation concerning the past.

C) **Concerning our Present** - verse 28 states that all things are working together for good in the present.

1) The good in concerning God's ultimate purpose for our lives

Romans 8 – also addresses our Future

A) **Concerning our Future** - Verses 35- 39 promise there is nothing that can separate from God's love in the future.

B) We have also noted important truths in this Chapter that – New life = new behavior

1) Learn to walk in the Spirit

C) And there is a purpose that God has in our suffering – suffering is prep for glory!

Tonight we are going to pick up reading in V.28 for context –

²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose. ²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the

image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. ³⁰ Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

We left off in V.30 last time where we saw that God is working all things together for good... love God ... the call according to HIS purpose

A) His purpose is the key phrase there, - the purpose is defined for us in V.29 – Conform us Christ

B) What I like to call – God's end game –

C) The work he is seeking to do in each one of our lives is to make us – more like Jesus!

D) It is all a part of the predetermined plan God – in calling you to be His Child –

1) Predestined = predetermined

E) The word predestined only appears 4 times in the entire Bible – **twice here in Romans 8 and twice in Ephesians 1**

³ Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ, ⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, ⁵ **having predestined** us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will. Ephesians 1:3-5

¹¹ In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, **being predestined** according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, ¹² that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory. Ephesians 1:11-12

It is important to note that whenever the Bible uses the term predestined or election it is always in relationship to salvation.

A) It is always used in relation to believers and never in relation to unbelievers

B) In other words those two terms are never used to describe someone who is going to hell

1) or who has been predestined to Damnation or Judgment

C)I point that out because there are those who are we would refer to as **hard core Calvinist** who – say –
1)that God predestines some to Salvation and some to Damnation

D)But the Bible never says that.

Election is a great Doctrine it should bless us to know that before the foundation of the world –God planned in advance for us to be saved.

A)He planned in advance for us to come Christ

B)Foreknowledge – actually speaks of For Knowing – knowing you in a relationship

C)That is the beauty of what Paul is telling us here – God who dwells in the realm of eternity – no time

1)God sees everything in the now

D)He saw the finished product of all that is going on with us – Note V.30

³⁰Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; {Declared righteous} and whom He justified, **these He also glorified.**

E)**Note -doesn't say will glorify – Has glorified**

1)That is how He sees you now.

This is one of the radical truths of the NT – New Covenant

A)We have this position now in Christ – Righteous How God sees us –

B)Glorified – sees the finished product

C)But that is not how we see ourselves – that is not how we see each other.

It might be our position in Christ – but it is not our present reality.

A)Our present reality in these bodies/ living on this planet – unrighteous – (bad day today)

B)Farthest thing from being glorified

C)And that is the great challenge for the Christian in the NT – walk in the reality of who you are in Jesus

D)Daily desire and aim to walk in the Spirit and not the flesh

Walk in a confidence that God is with us and God is for us – God is committed to us – going to Make it

A)That is exactly how Paul wraps up this chapter

³¹What then shall we say to these things? {These truths}

If God *is* for us, who *can be* against us?

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

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

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

1)but here is the point is if God is on my side who cares!

That is all I need to know - God is for me !

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

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!

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

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 2019 Lexus 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

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 here is the dilemma however – the Devil doesn't want us to walk in that confidence.

A) So he is always seeking to challenge this truth

B) He will seek to do so in two ways - #1 is through accusation. ³³ Who shall bring a charge against

God's elect? *It is* God who justifies. 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)A charge – takes us into the realm of the courtroom. –

1)Prosecuting attorney is going to bring up the charges against us. –

D)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.

V.34 Who is he who condemns?

A)Although our own hearts condemn us too. Self condemnation - Reflect past actions,

B)Also there are Critics seek to condemn us

1)In reality Satan is working through all of that – Fiery darts – thought life

2)You are no good – you are not a Christian – God really doesn't love you –

We will learn in our study of Ephesians 6 get to in September – we battle that with – Armor of God

A)All the pieces of Armor our about our Identity in Christ

B)First is the Belt of truth – the truth – about who we are in Jesus – Righteous – not condemned etc

C)This is what Paul tell us here ³³ Who shall bring a charge against God's elect?

D)Idea – who can really bring a Charge against God's elect *It is* God who justifies

Satan can bring all the chargers 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.

C)God the father declares us Righteous because Jesus died in our Place

1)and He rose to impart His life and righteousness to us.

D)Jesus currently lives to make intercession for us

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. 1 John 2:1-2

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.

D)So Satan comes to accuse us and Jesus steps in and says Paid in Full – **RIGHTEOUS**

SO Satan seeks to challenge our confidence first through accusations / condemnation

A)But he also seeks to do so through circumstances

B)If God really loved you – for you why going...this?

1)**Paul addresses that tactic in the verses that follow**

³⁵ **Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?** Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written:

“For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.”

The early church lived during a time of intense persecution – we don't here in the West

A)It would be easy for them to doubt – to buy into the lie – **if God really loved you – wouldn't be happening**

B)Paul was no stranger to suffering – he went through a ton of suffering for being a Christ follower

C)Notice in V.38 Paul is going to broaden the list of difficulties

Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, (Principalities.....)

Neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—
not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love.

No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

D)So this creates a Paradox in our minds, Jesus loves me, but the love that Jesus has for me does not eliminate our suffering.

As human beings our natural tendency is to want to protect our children from harm and difficulty.

A)We think- wouldn't that be God's heart for His Children as well? –

B)We say things like – I would do anything to keep my Child from suffering.

Not really a true statement: Examples – Your child gets a Cavity

A)Are you not going to take your child to the Dentist when he has a cavity because the shot to numb his gums is going to hurt? – No

B)**Your child needs surgery**- are you going to withhold having the surgery because the recovery time is going to be really painful – bed for weeks?
No

C)No as a parent – YOU KNOW – **HURT COMES WITH HEALING!**

Spiritually the same is true! Hurt comes with healing.

A)We were born with a disease called sin! – We are not sinners because we sin – we sin because we are sinners – kids lie – kids are selfish – SINNERS

B)All of us came to Christ – **messed up**- one way or another

C)We came to Christ broken/ sin had taken it's toll on our lives.

1)We enter the family God like we did marriage – with baggage & brokenness. Twisted and Crooked

D)**Hang ups and fears** and trust issues that are all a part of our past –

God in His love is seeking to heal us – mold us – shape us!

A)Sometimes to heal us, he has to allow us to get hurt.

B)Yrs ago I broke my pinky finger playing football.

1)Taped it up – healed itself – but it is crooked – doesn't straighten all the way.

C)In order for it to straighten – a doctor would have to re-break it – **Heal properly**

We too have come to Christ with hearts that have been broken – healed improperly.

A)God in His love for us – will allow our lives to be broken again through things like –

tribulation, (life stuff)
distress, (life pressures)
persecution (loss of relationships because of Christ)

B)God in His love doesn't shield us from any of that because He knows that all those things are going to be used in our healing.

C)He is going to use them to straighten us – **MAKE US MORE LIKE JESUS.**

James 1:2-5

My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. 4 But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

So as parents we realize that Hurt comes with healing

A)And we also know that there is risk in developing our child's potential.

B)As a parent are you not going to allow your son to play football – **something he is really gifted in** because he might get hurt?

C)Are you going to not allow your daughter to surf because she could drown or get eaten by a shark?

D) Are you going to not allow your child to have friends because kids can be mean and they will get hurt?

E) Are you not going to allow your child to get his/her drivers license because they might get in a wreck.

As parents, even over protective parents, we realize that life is full of risks. Life is full of uncertainties, life is full of dangers.

A) But all of it is used to develop our kids – all of it is used to bring out their gifts, to mold them and shape them –

B) All of it is used to shape their potential – all of it is used to help them reach their maximum impact in this world.

The same is true with God!

A) Life is **His training ground**- used to Develop us

B) Life is also **His platform**- A stage - Full of opportunities to be glorified in us and through us.

C) Sometimes **He is glorified in our Victories** – We give Him credit – we drawn attention to Him.

1) Other times **He is glorified in our defeats** {Grace in failure

2) Other times **He is glorified in our sufferings** { Strength to over come strength to make it through.

D) Through it all we are never alone- never forgotten, never forsaken, Always kept by the overwhelming love of our Redeemer and Savior /friend...brother

V.37 Through His love for us – His devotion to us – We ARE MORE THAN CONQUERORS

A) Interesting description: More than conquerors.

B) We know what a conqueror is – It is a football team that annihilates an opponent – 56-0

1) It is an UFC fighter who just destroys his challenger in a matter of seconds

C) In Paul's day it was the Roman army that used brutality and intimidation to put the rest of the world into submission.

D) Those are all examples of a Conqueror

But what is it mean to be more than a Conqueror?

A) It is to have the victory in the midst of the battle.

B) While things are still raging around me, while the outcome still seems to be **very uncertain**

1) Being more than a Conqueror is to have the glorious victory and rejoicing, even in the midst of the battle.

C) **Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego** were tossed into the fiery furnace.

1) They said with confidence - **One way or another God is going to deliver us from your hand.**

D) It is **the picture of 1,000's of Christians** during the **Roman persecution** lined up outside the coliseum in Rome – awaiting their death.

1) In the coliseum are gladiators who will use them for sport – or lions and other wild beast who will rip them to shreds

E) The coliseum is packed with Roman spectators who are there to be entertained by the spectacle?

There is this line of Christians waiting to walk into that coliseum to their brutal death – What are they doing ? **Singing praise songs to Jesus.**

A) **Worship service in the midst of the situation** – that is being more than conquerors!

B) **So compelling – so significant – so powerful a scene**

C) That Roman citizens sitting in the stands – are so moved by this **display of courage, peace, some were converted on the spot.**

1) {left the stands got in line – to be martyred for Jesus.

D) That is what it means to be more than Conquerors!

I could never do that – YOU ARE RIGHT – not about you!

A) More than Conquerors – through Him (Through Jesus) who loves us!

B) It is not our devotion to Him that makes us more than conquerors it is His devotion to us.

1) It is not our strength in Him that makes us...../ It is His STRENGTH working in us.

C) During the height of WWII when Nazi Germany was killing Jewish men and women by the millions.

1) Believers in Germany were taking to hiding Jewish people in their homes and Basements.

D) One family – Corrie ten Boom. { Young teen age girl } Afraid – I am not sure I can make it father if the Nazi's catch us.

Her dad said: "When we are going on a trip – when do I give you the money for the ticket – weeks ahead of time – or the day of?" – Day of.

E) Same is true of the Lord – He gives us what we need in the moment for the need that is at hand. –

Hebrews 4:16 He promises Timely help – Grace for the time of need.

33 These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." John 16:33

A) It is because He has overcome the world – that we can be more than conquerors through Him who loves us.

"More than conqueror" is one who, by the grace and the gift of God, and in the strength of God within him, actually takes the very things that are designed to destroy him, and they become stepping stones instead of stumbling blocks." Ray Stedman

B) Romans 8 great passage dealing with our security in Christ, Confidence in Christ, Strength from Christ

C) Rest / Rejoice / Rejuvenated

Concerning our Past - Verse 1 declares there is no condemnation concerning the past.

Concerning our Present - verse 28 states that all things are working together for good in the present.

Concerning our Future - Verses 35- 39 promise there is nothing that can separate from God's love in the future.