

WORSHIP SERVICE - 4.10.2022

EASTER 2022

I. INTRODUCTION

Romans 8:31-39

31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be[a] against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? 33 Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.[b] 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? 36 As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all the day long;

we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

II. FOUR INDISPUTABLE ASSURANCES SECURED FOR US BY CHRIST

1. GOD IS FOR YOU

- “If God is for us, WHO can be against us?”
- There are many who claim God is for them. That claim is subject to abuse.
- But it’s also strange to ask, “Who can be against us?”
- There are a lot of things that are against us (people, the devil, Paul's list, the world, our own sinful flesh).
- So what does Paul mean by way of this question? Paul is declaring that there are no adversaries who may come against us, who are of any account when God is for us.
- **Psalm 56:2-4,9a** My enemies trample on me all day long for many attack me proudly. 3When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. 4 In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can flesh do to me? 9a This I know, that God is for me!
- Why is God for us?

- Scripture tells us God has chosen the weak and foolish things of the world to confound the wise. He's chosen the lowly and despised (1Cor. 1:26-29).
- That should humble us!
- He is FOR YOU because of his electing love and Christ's work.
- So our only boast is in the Lord!

- Paul underscores this amazing truth by asking another question, "He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?"
- This is an argument from the greater to the lesser.
- If God, through Christ, was able to solve our ultimate problem in life, our sin problem, by doing the much harder thing of saving us, do you think any of the problems you face right now are too difficult for him?
- A God who sacrificed his own Son on our behalf, will not withhold anything that you need in order for his plan of salvation to completely unfold in your life.
- God's ultimate proof that he is FOR US, that he is FOR his elect, is found in the cross.
- What is of more worth than the Son of God?
- In giving us his Son, God gave us everything.
- The cross is the guarantee of the continuing, unfailing, generosity of God.
- He doesn't redeem us and then reject us.
- He redeems us to renew us into the image of His Son.
- God is FOR YOU! So what in heaven or earth can ever really be against you?

2. GOD HAS SILENCED YOUR ACCUSERS

- Who shall bring any charge against God's elect?
- This doesn't mean charges won't be brought up.
- We have an enemy who is called 'the accuser of the brethren'. (Rev. 12:10).
- We've all had people hurl accusations against us.
- Our own conscience presents evidence against us and brings us up on charges.
- But none of these accusations can hold up.
- Paul's response to that question is, "It is God who justifies."
- The charges that are presented fail because the penalty that they demanded has already been paid in full by Jesus Christ!
- It is God who justifies! You didn't justify yourself before God!
- Our standing with God, our acceptance, our salvation, is based solely on the free grace God offers to us in Christ.
- God in Christ, pronounces us righteous, who can challenge that verdict?
- He knows the absolute worst about us so what can anyone tell God about you that he doesn't already know?

- When you face those accusations and become discouraged thinking that something you've done has made you unacceptable to God, ask yourself, "What made you acceptable to God in the first place?" Ask yourself, "When did God justify me?"
- It was when you were still dead in your trespass and sin (Eph. 2:4-6).
- Paul mentions a few times in this letter, that it is God who justifies the ungodly and that Christ died for the ungodly, and that while we were still sinners Christ died for us, and that while we were still his enemies, he reconciled us to himself (Romans 4:6; 5:6-10).
- God justified you with his eyes wide open.
- So on that basis, Satan's accusations of our failure should fall on deaf ears.

3. GOD DOES NOT CONDEMN YOU

- Who is to condemn?
- There are many who would want to condemn us. But who can pronounce a sentence of guilt against us and punish us?
- Romans 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.
- That is true, not for everyone, but it is true for those who are in Christ Jesus.
- If anyone could condemn us it is Christ. But all of those condemnations fail because of Christ.
- V34b Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.
- Christ has rescued us from condemnation through his death, resurrection, exaltation, and intercession.

- **CHRIST DIED** - we deserved condemnation because of our sin. But God condemned our sin by laying it upon Christ (Rom. 8:3).
- **CHRIST WAS RAISED** - Christ rose from the grave, triumphing over sin and death. The Father raised Christ from the dead for our justification (Rom. 4:25). Christ's resurrection is the proof and the basis of our justification.
- **CHRIST IS EXALTED** - He has completed his work to secure our salvation and now sits with all authority and power.
- **CHRIST INTERCEDES FOR US** - as our High Priest he intercedes for us because his work is done. The writer of Hebrews tells us that Christ continues to secure the benefits of his death for his people by making intercession for them (Hebrews 7:25).

- So who is to condemn us? Christ died, rose, sat down, and intercedes for us.
- God has already brought all the charges which could possibly be brought against you, and declared them forgiven and paid in full.

4. GOD'S LOVE FOR YOU IS INSEPARABLE

- **Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?**
- Paul does something with this question he did not do with the others, he provides a sample list of possible circumstances that could possibly come into the believer's life before the answer.
- We've all experienced things in our life and have felt that maybe God doesn't love us.
- Paul had experienced these things in one way or another. He is speaking from experience.

- But Paul is not asking what can separate us from OUR love of Christ.
- He is talking about His love for us, the love of Christ.
- The answer should be obvious to us by now. If it were dependent on us to maintain the love of God for us, anything could separate us from that love.
- God's love for us is connected to his divine will in saving us.

- John Stott wrote that, *"Our confidence is not in our love for him, which is frail, fickle and faltering, but in His love for us, which is steadfast, faithful and persevering."*
- He loves you because He loves you!
- That's why Paul could say in vs. 37 – "we are more than conquerors through him who loved us."
- Christ demonstrated his love for us through his suffering so what could possibly separate us from that?

- Paul had faced all of these things and could still rest assured in the love of Christ.
 - God does not promise that we would be exempt from temptation, trials or tragedy, but that we would triumph over them and through them.
 - God has not said that our life would be worry-free or suffering-free but he has committed that nothing would ever separate us from His love.
 - Paul lists more things which we might be tempted to think are powerful enough to dislodge us from God's love, but none of those things can separate you.
 - Nothing in the entire universe can separate you "from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."
 - Not even YOU can separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus.
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- The questions and how you would answer them reveals what you really believe about God.
 - Do you believe in a God whose purposes can be frustrated or one that is totally for you and no enemy in heaven and earth can frustrate his plan?
 - Do you consistently believe the accusations of the enemy or are you resting in your complete justification, the work of Jesus on your behalf?
 - Do you wallow in guilt and shame feeling condemned or are you trusting completely in Christ's death, resurrection, exaltation, and intercession on your behalf?
 - Do you believe that life's circumstances can separate you from God's love for you or are you trusting that God loves you because he loves you in Christ and that love is inseparable?
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- Be encouraged, comforted, and strengthened today that Christ's death, resurrection, exaltation, and intercession secures these realities for you.
 - These things are yours in Christ and you cannot have them apart from Christ.