

## Wednesday Evening Bible Study

May 10, 2023

Series - The Life and Writings of the Apostle Paul

The Letter to the Romans

The Righteousness of God

Text – Romans 8:31 - 39 – *The Work of the Holy Spirit* – Part Three

### Introduction

This last section of chapter eight brings us to the conclusion of three main divisions in our study of Paul's Letter to the Romans:

- 1 The Doctrinal Section, which included a thorough examination of both justification and sanctification.
- 2 The Section dealing with Sanctification, which began in chapter six. We have learned in this section that though sanctification is a lifelong process, it is just as much the work of God as justification.
- 3 The chapter on the Holy Spirit. He was almost unmentioned prior to chapter eight, but He is the very center of attention here as he is mentioned 19 times.

This last part of chapter eight reveals the victory that we who are "in Christ" are guaranteed. There are five compelling arguments given here in this section that guarantee the victory that we have in Christ:

- 1 God is for us.
- 2 Christ died for us.
- 3 God justified us.
- 4 Christ intercedes for us.
- 5 God loves us.

Every time this old world gets you down and you feel like you are losing the battle, remind yourself of these truths, only substitute the word "me" for "us". God being "for you" is bigger and more powerful than any obstacle or foe that you may face in this life:

*"Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world."* (1 John 4:4)

What a wonderful little portion of Scripture this is. There is great security found here, and with this confidence that God gives us there is also great comfort.

### III The Spirit Gives Us Victory (vs. 31 – 39)

#### A There Is No Condemnation in Victory (vs. 31 – 34)

This brings us back to where we started the chapter:

*"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." (Romans 8:1)*

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

Just think about the statement "if God be for us?" Paul is stating here that God is for us. Sometimes it feels like the whole world is against us, but God is for us. And those that are against us have no power against He that is for us. We have absolutely nothing to fear in this life because we know that He will ultimately deliver us from every earthly trial and every attack from the devil or his compatriots; and even while enduring the afflictions of this life, He is with us, and gives the grace that we need to endure. Paul endured a lot of earthly suffering, but God's grace got him through it all. Though we have a lot of things and people that may be against us in this life, they are nothing compared to God's grace.

*"And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me.*

*And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me." (2 Corinthians 12:7-9)*

***"He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?" (Romans 8:32)***

The idea here is that God already gave everything when He gave His Son to die for our sins. Why would He hold anything else back?

Dwight L. Moody illustrated it somewhat like this: Suppose I go into the finest jewelry store in the land, and they bring out the loveliest diamond, and the owner says, "It's yours!" And I say, "You don't mean that you are giving me this valuable diamond!" He says, "Yes. I am giving it to you." If he gave it to me, do you think I would hesitate to ask him for a piece of brown wrapping paper to wrap it up and take it home with me? My friend, since God gave his *Son* to die for you, don't you know that He is going to give you everything that is necessary in this life and in the life to come?<sup>1</sup>

***"Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth." (Romans 8:33)***

If we are justified (seen as perfect and sinless) by God, then there are no charges against

---

<sup>1</sup> McGee, J. V. (1991). *Thru the Bible commentary: The Epistles (Romans 1-8)* (electronic ed., Vol. 42, pp. 161-162). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

us that can stand. God is the Judge. Neither Satan, nor any man can make an accusation against us that will harm our standing "in Christ".

***"Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us." (Romans 8:34)***

Not only do we have a Judge that refuses to hear any charges against us, but we also have an intercessor that defends us to the Father, and as we have already learned, The Holy Spirit intercedes for us here on earth. (Romans 8:26 – 27)

*"My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:" (1 John 2:1)*

As our High Priest, He can give us the grace we need to overcome temptation and defeat the enemy (Hebrews 4:14–16). As our Advocate, He can forgive our sins and restore our fellowship with God (1 John 1:9–2:2). Intercession means that Jesus Christ represents us before the throne of God, and we do not have to represent ourselves. Paul hinted at this ministry of intercession in Romans 5:9–10. We are not only saved by His death, but we are also saved by His life.<sup>2</sup>

#### **B There is No Separation in Victory (vs. 35 – 39)**

***"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?" (Romans 8:35)***

Because God loves us, He will never allow us to be separated from Him. None of the sufferings that we may endure as we serve on this earth can separate us from God's love.

***"As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." (Romans 8:36)***

The world hates us, friend, because we belong to God, but God loves us.

***"Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us." (Romans 8:37)***

Ultimately, God will deliver us from the pains of this earthly existence and bring us into His presence in Heaven, but even while we are here, we take His presence with us, through the indwelling Holy Ghost of God.

***"For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:38 - 39)***

---

<sup>2</sup> Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). *The Bible exposition commentary* (Vol. 1, p. 542). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

There is no power on earth that can pull us away from God. We are safe and secure in His love. To be “in Christ” means that you have complete eternal security.

*"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. I and my Father are one."* (John 10:27-30)

*"Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:"* (Philippians 1:6)

Warren Wiersbe sums up this portion of Scripture very well:

In Romans 8:31–34 Paul proved that God cannot fail us, but is it possible that we can fail Him? Suppose some great trial or temptation comes, and we fail? Then what? Paul deals with that problem in this final section and explains that nothing can separate us from the love of Jesus Christ.

To begin with, God does not shelter us from the difficulties of life because we need them for our spiritual growth (Romans 5:3–5). In Romans 8:28 God assures us that the difficulties of life are working *for* us and not *against* us. God permits trials to come that we might use them for our good and His glory. We endure trials for His sake (Romans 8:36), and since we do, do you think that He will desert us? Of course not! Instead, He is closer to us when we go through the difficulties of life.

Furthermore, He gives us the power to conquer (Romans 8:37). We are “more than conquerors,” literally, “we are super conquerors” through Jesus Christ! He gives us victory and more victory! We need not fear life or death, things present or things to come, because Jesus Christ loves us and gives us the victory. This is not a promise with conditions attached: “If you do this, God will do that.” This security in Christ is an established fact, and we claim it for ourselves because we are in Christ. Nothing can separate you from His love! Believe it—and rejoice in it!

A review of this wonderful chapter shows that the Christian is completely victorious. We are free from judgment because Christ died for us, and we have His righteousness. We are free from defeat because Christ lives in us by His Spirit, and we share His life. We are free from discouragement because Christ is coming for us, and we shall share His glory. We are free from fear because Christ intercedes for us, and we cannot be separated from His love.

No condemnation! No obligation! No frustration! No separation!

If God be for us, who can be against us.<sup>3</sup>

---

<sup>3</sup> Wiersbe, pp. 542 - 543