

The Security of the Believer¹

Spilman Memorial Baptist Church, Kinston NC

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Text: Romans 8: 31-39

Purpose: Because we have been redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ, we as believers are secure in our relationship with God. We are secure by the work, life, and love of Christ. Nothing will be able to separate us from God because we are secure and kept in the palm of God's hand.

A sick man turned to his doctor, as he was preparing to leave the examination room and said, "Doctor, I am afraid to die. Tell me what lies on the other side."



Very quietly, the doctor said, "I don't know."

"You don't know? You, a Christian man, do not know what is on the other side?"

The doctor was holding the handle of the door. On the other side came a sound of scratching and whining, and as he opened the door, a dog sprang into the room and leaped on him with an eager show of gladness.

Turning to the patient, the doctor said, "Did you notice my dog? He's never been in this room before. He didn't know what was inside. He knew nothing except that his master

was here, and when the door opened, he sprang in without fear.

I know little of what is on the other side of death, but I do know one thing...I know my Master is there and that is enough."²



Of all the promises made to the children of God relating to our salvation, the most precious one is related to the fact that those who are saved, are saved forever. Jesus said He was going to prepare a place for us. If He said it, I believe it! This promise refers to our eternal security as a believer. I am aware that our Free Will Baptist brothers and sisters believe based upon a few scriptures that they may lose their salvation. They believe that one day they can be saved and the next day they can be lost.

We don't need to live our lives in a constant state of fear that we may die and end up in hell because of one sin, one word, or one action. If you have placed your faith in Christ, then you are saved.



- Acts 16:31 says, “Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved.”
- John 3:16 says, “that whosoever believeth in Jesus SHALL be saved.”
- John 5:24 says, “He who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me HAS everlasting life, and SHALL NOT come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.”

- John 6:47 says, “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me HAS everlasting life.”
- John 10:28 says, “And I give to them eternal life, and they shall NEVER perish; neither shall ANYONE snatch them out of My hand.”

If these were not enough to satisfy our on again, off again brothers, then Romans 8 surely is enough to convince them that once we are saved, NOTHING will separate us from the love of God.



There is a distinct plan of salvation offered to humanity that sets Christianity apart from all other systems of belief in the world. God's plan of salvation guarantees absolute, eternal security to everyone who calls upon the name of Jesus Christ as their Savior. Our security is not based upon ourselves. Instead, it is based upon the labor that Christ has done on our behalf. It is secure because of the life of Christ. And it is secure because of the love of Christ.

I. WE ARE SECURED BY THE LABOR OF CHRIST (v. 31-33)

“What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 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? Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.” (v. 31-33)



A. His Interest in Us (v. 31)

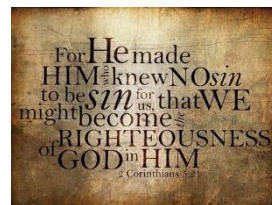
Verse 31 tells us of God's interest in us. We have learned in last week's sermon that we have been delivered from the sentence of sin and we are no longer under condemnation. Even though we have operated under the **law of sin and death**, through Christ, we are now able to live according to the **law of the Spirit**. As we abide in Christ, we are able to fulfill the righteous requirements of the law, not according to what we have done, rather, what Christ has done on our behalf. Christ is FOR US.

Paul lets us know that God is infinitely interested in us. Before we were ever formed, God knew our frame and loved us. From the foundation of the world, God knew that He would have to send His one and only Son to die for our sins. How much more could God love us than that?

Verse 31 tells us, *"If God is for us, who can be against us?"* Paul is not questioning if God is for us. He already made that determination that God is for us. What he is trying to say through the use of this *"if" "then"* statement is, Since God is already on our side, is there anyone bigger that could defeat the plans of God? The obvious answer is NO.

B. His Investment in Us (v. 32a)

Verse 32 declares to us that God has invested in us. He has made the ultimate sacrifice on our behalf. He delivered His ONLY Son up for us. There was no gift greater that God could give besides His Son. 2 Corinthians 5:21 says, *"For He*



made Him who know no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." God has a great investment in you and you may not even realize it. God did it because He loves us. That children's song, *"Jesus, Loves Me"* reminds us of the simple but profound truth. GOD DOES LOVE US.

When we accept Jesus as our Savior, we accept God's provision and investment in our salvation. When we trust Jesus to save us, His death became my death. His payment at Calvary became my payment for my sin. At that moment in time, the debt had been canceled and we are set free from the debt of sin we owe the Lord. We are eternally saved by the grace of God. Because of who God is, and because of His investment in us, our salvation is secure.

C. His Intentions for Us (v. 32b)

The last half of verse 32, Paul asks us a question. He wants to know if God would pay this high a price to save us, don't you think He would plan to do something with us? Yes, God has a plan for our lives. He has a plan for our living out this journey of faith, and He has a plan for our eternal home with Him in heaven.

In John 17:24, Jesus said, *"Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory, which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world."*

Until that day of reunion, we *"are kept through the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."* (1 Peter 1:5) God's intention for us is to one

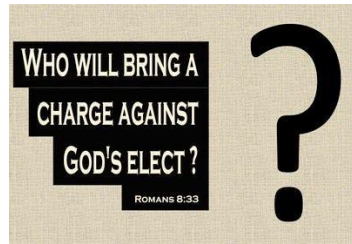


day bring us to Him in glory. There we will live with Him for all eternity.

D. His Insistence Concerning Us (v. 33)

Another question Paul asks is found in verse 33. *“Who shall bring a charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies.”*

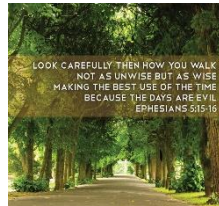
Since God is the supreme judge and ruler of all the world, and God has provided a plan of salvation through His Only Son Jesus Christ, then who else is there to bring charges against the chosen ones of God?



God knew us before we were born. He in His foreknowledge knew who would and would not accept Christ as their Savior. His foreknowledge did not mean that He forced us not to choose. He only knew how we would respond in life. Paul expounds on this idea about those He foreknew in verses 29 and 30.

But God is intensely interested in us. He has the best ready and waiting for us. If we know that, why is it that we often fail again and again? Paul clearly tells us that all are sinners and are only saved by the grace of God. But we need to be careful of our walk in this world.

You might not think others are watching you, but they are. They hear how you cut down other people with your sharp words. They see the places you go and the people you are with. Sometimes we exhibit characteristics of our old sin nature that pops us and harms our witness to the watching eyes of the world. We do not



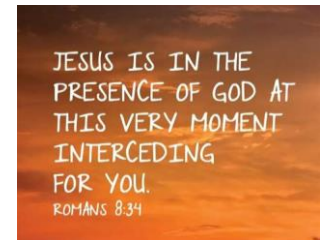
want to hinder our witness for Christ. We need to be careful in our actions, words, and deeds if we ever hope to win the lost to Christ.

But when we do sin, we can take comfort in knowing that we have someone seated beside God interceding on our behalf. Satan may come before God and accuse of us wrong doing, but our lives have been justified through the finished work of God at Calvary. We are forgiven and when we do sin, our advocate stands in our place defending our justification.

Yes, we are secure by the Labor of Christ. But we are also secure by the Life of Christ.

II. WE ARE SECURED BY THE LIFE OF CHRIST (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.”

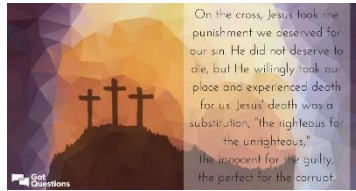


Verse 34 is one of my favorite verses in all of scripture. Jesus Christ who died on the cross and then rose from the grave is now doing what? He is interceding for us. Does anyone have the right to judge the believer and find them worthy of judgment? Can anyone point a finger at a redeemed sinner and condemn them to hell? No!

Why? Because He first ...

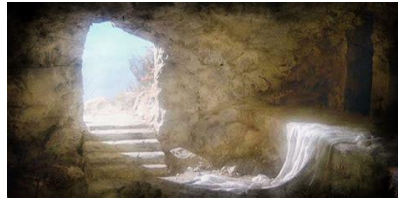
A. The Price He Paid On The Cross

Jesus paid the price for our sin there on Calvary. When He died, He took our place. He took care of the sin debt of every person that will accept Jesus as their Savior. Since He died and paid the price, no one else has the right or power to judge you and me.



B. The Power He Displayed At The Tomb

Jesus also demonstrated His power at the tomb. After three days in the tomb, Jesus rose from the dead. He no longer is dead, He is alive. At several funerals, I have closed out the service with the hymn, “He Lives.” “You ask me how I know He lives; He lives within my heart.”



The fact that Jesus is no longer dead gives us great hope for the future. Of all the religions of the world, only Christianity can claim a living Messiah. Joseph Smith is dead. Mohammad is dead. Mary Baker Eddie is dead. Only Jesus is alive. That same power that resurrected Jesus is the same power that has separated our sins from us.

C. The Position He Holds at The Throne

After 40 days on this earth after the resurrection, Jesus returned back into heaven and is now seated at the right hand of God. Hebrews 10:12-13 says,

“But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool.”

It is from this place in Heaven that Christ waits and advocates for us. The word **advocate** refers to *“one who pleads the case of another before a court of law.”* In the courtroom of heaven, Satan accuses the redeemed. Jesus, the Advocate, defends us before the Father and the Father always dismisses the case, because the crimes have already been paid for.

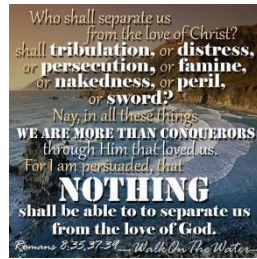
God is a just God and He will not try us again for a sin that has been covered and paid for by Christ. We thank God that we have one that stands before God on our behalf and defends us. Hebrews 7:25 says, *“Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.”* The marks on His body are the proof that the sin has been paid. Someone once said that those marks on Christ body are the only man-made thing in heaven.

III. WE ARE SECURED BY THE LOVE OF CHRIST (35-39)

As a believer in Christ, I have great confidence in my salvation because of the labor of Christ, and because of the life of Christ. But I also am greatly comforted knowing that I am secured by the love of Christ. This passage of scripture in Romans 8:35-39 is one that I have loved for years.

BUT WHEN CHRIST HAD OFFERED FOR ALL TIME A SINGLE SACRIFICE FOR SINS, HE SAT DOWN AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD, WAITING FROM THAT TIME UNTIL HIS ENEMIES SHOULD BE MADE A FOOTSTOOL FOR HIS FEET. HEBREWS 10:12-13

Paul begins to list some of the problems and troubles we face in this life. As he stated earlier, our sin will not separate us from God. Satan cannot separate us from God. Surely the troubles of life will not separate us from God!



*“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?
Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?
As it is written: ‘For Your sake we are killed all day long; we are counted as sheep for the slaughter.’
Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.
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 created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

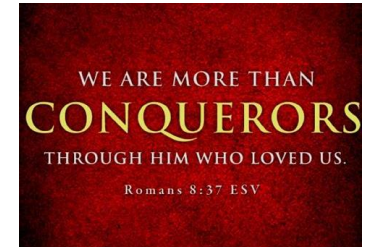
A. His Love Is Enduring (v. 35-36)

Verses 35 and 36 tell us that God’s love is enduring. Regardless of what we face in life, nothing is able to come between us and the love of God. His love will endure through anything. When we have awful things happen in life, we are tempted to think and feel that God doesn’t love us anymore. Don’t get caught up in that emotional rollercoaster. Simply trust and know that God loves you and He will see you through the valley. Hebrews 13:5 reminds us that God *“will never leave you nor forsake you.”* His love endures forever!



B. His Love Is Enabling (v. 37)

Paul also goes on in verse 37 to say that this kind of love enables us to be conquerors. When life throws us situations that would overwhelm most others, we can honestly say we are *“more than conquerors”* through Him who loved us. We become super-conquerors when we face battles in life. Why? Because He lives within us and enables us to stand. The genuine believer proves that He is real by the life He lives.

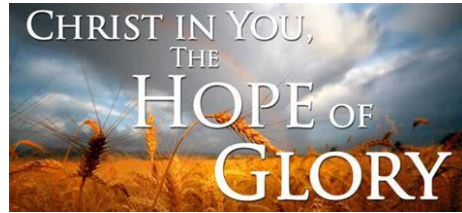


If the things of the world can come between us and our living for God, then we probably are not saved to begin with. If a professing Christian can walk away from the things of God and live in persistent sin, that person did not lose their salvation, they just never received it in the first place.

True salvation in a person’s life will produce an endurance in the saints of God. The true child of God is enabled by the prevailing love of God to carry on until He calls them home to glory. If you are able to make it through the storms of life and still hold on to your faith in God, then it would seem you have a genuine faith. But if everything blows you off course with God, then maybe you need to go back and re-examine your faith commitment to Christ. According to this verse, God enables us to persevere until the end.

C. His Love Is Everlasting (v. 38-39)

Paul reminds us in the last two verses of chapter eight that we can have confidence that this is a love that will last forever.



Paul covers the entirety of life – from beginning to end – and there is nothing that can separate us from God. We can stand and sing, “Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine” from now until eternity. We are His and He is ours. The end result of this faith in Christ is that we are forever protected and secure no matter what may come in life.

When we examine all these truths, it becomes clear that we have absolute security IN CHRIST. The believer does not need to fear anything coming between himself and God’s salvation. If you are saved, you are saved forever.

Hebrews 13:6 tells us that we can boldly say to the world. *“The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.”*

May we learn the boldness to face God in all we do and trust in His unfailing love for us.

LET US PRAY

Notes:

¹ Outline is from Sermon Notebook – Romans 8:31-39

² Mikey’s Funnies, A “Sick” Funny, Feb. 24, 2023