

God is for us!

Romans 8:31–9:1

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Big Idea: No matter what comes our way the gospel assures us that God is for us.

There are two great pastoral problems. One is to convince the unconverted that they are sinners. The other is to convince Christians that they are in union and communion with Jesus Christ and that their sin is forgiven. –**John Owen**

> How can you know for certain that God is for us?

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

Exhibits A - F

- A. We have peace with God (5:1-11)
- B. We are united with Christ (5:12-6:23)
- C. We have freedom from sin, death and the law (7:1-25)
- D. We have life in the Spirit (8:1-27)
- E. We are saved by God's sovereign grace (8:28-30)
- F. We have God on our side (8:31-39)

I. No one can ever condemn us to hell (8:31-34).

A. Because God is for us (v. 31)

Ps. 56:3-4 When 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?

B. Because God gave His own Son for us (v. 32; Gen. 22:10-13)

Who delivered up Jesus to die? Not Judas, for money; not Pilate, for fear; not the Jews, for envy – but the Father, for love! **Octavius Winslow**

C. Because God has justified us (v. 33)

Romans 5:9 Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.

If you fear that something in your life may some day render you unacceptable to God, ask yourself this question: "When did God justify me?" Was it not when you were as ungodly and sinful as you possibly could be (Rom. 4:5; 5:6-11)? God passed his favorable sentence on you in full view of all your depravity and shortcomings. Who, then, can challenge his verdict? God justified you with His eyes wide open. He knew the worst about you at the time when He accepted you, through faith, for Jesus sake. What can anyone tell God about you that He doesn't already know? **Sam Storms**

D. Because God has forgiven us (v. 34)

- > How do you resist the accusations of Satan?
- > How should you respond to the guilt of sin?
- > What is the difference between the Holy Spirit's conviction and Satan's accusations?

II. Nothing can ever separate us from the love of Christ (8:35-39).

A. Because suffering cannot sever us from Christ (v. 35)

John 10:27–30 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. 30 I and the Father are one."

We are not guaranteed immunity to temptation, tribulation or tragedy, but we are promised victory over them. God's pledge is not that suffering will never afflict us, but that it will never separate us from his love. – **John Stott**

B. Because we are more that conquerors through Christ (vv. 36-37)

C. Because there is nothing in all creation that can separate us from the love of God in Christ (v. 38-39)

How should you respond to suffering?

Suffering does not slay us, it transforms us. The gospel forces suffering to do good unto us by conforming us to the image of Christ.

More than anything else could ever do, the gospel enables me to embrace my tribulations and thereby position myself to gain full benefit from them. For the gospel is one great permanent circumstance in which I live and move; and every hardship in my life is allowed by God only because it serves His gospel purposes in me. When I view my circumstances in this light, I realize that gospel is not just one piece of good news that fits into my life somewhere among the bad. I realize instead the gospel makes genuinely good news out of every other aspect of my life, including my severest trials. The good news about my trials is that God is forcing them to bow to His gospel purposes and do good unto me by improving my character and making me more conformed to the image of Christ. **Milton Vincent - A Gospel Primer**

Benediction

Jude 24–25 Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, 25 to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.