Romans 8:31-39 For the week of April 2, 2023

Reflection	R	efl	e	ct	io	n
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1. What were some of the takeaways, for you, from Sunday's sermon? Output Description:					
2. Were there questions, comments, concerns?					
Paul introduces the last nine verses of this chapter with a concluding formula, which he has already used three times (6:1, 15; 7:7): What, then, shall we say in response to this? (31a). That is in the light of his five convictions (28) and five affirmations (29–30), 'what is there left to say?', or 'what can we add?'. The apostle's answer to his own question is to ask five more questions, to which there is no answer. He hurls them into space, as it were, in a spirit of bold defiance. He challenges anybody and everybody, in heaven, earth or hell, to answer them and to deny the truth which they contain. But there is no answer. For no-one and nothing can harm the people whom God has foreknown, predestined, called, justified, and glorified. ¹					
Observation (vs. 31-34) 3. Write these verses in your own words.					
Interpretation4. If God is for us, then why do believers often operate as if He's against us?					
5. Since God has fully granted believers pardon, why would Christians carry around guilt over our sins and failures?					

¹ John R. W. Stott, <u>The Message of Romans: God's Good News for the World</u>, The Bible Speaks Today (Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2001), 253–254.

Application

Forgive: To wipe the slate clean, to pardon, to cancel a debt. Forgiveness is not granted because a person deserves to be forgiven. Forgiveness is a decision to not hold something against another person, despite what they have done.

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6.	How are you at receiving God's forgiveness?
7.	How are you at giving God's forgiveness?
8.	How does knowing that 2/3 of the trinity are "interceding for us" (vs. 27, 34) impact you?
	servation (vs. 35-39) What is being said in these verses?
	erpretation Why does God not shelter believers from the difficulties of life (Romans 5:3-5)?
11.	How can a believer say that the difficulties of life are working for us and not against us?
12.	Why does Paul write a specific list of things that cannot separate us from God's love?

Application

	Playing the victim is common today, blaming others is a standard tactic, and complaining is widespread. Christians face the same struggles as others, but our attitude should be radically different. Why?
14.	What would Paul say to a Christian who has a pattern of complaining about the difficulties of life?
15.	Does this passage and Paul's response impact you personally? How?