

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

Reflection

1. What were some of the takeaways, for you, from Sunday's sermon?

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.

Interpretation

4. 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, [*The Message of Romans: God's Good News for the World*](#), The Bible Speaks Today (Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2001), 253–254.

Application

13. 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?