

## **Title: Secured in His Love**

### **Text: Romans 8:31-39**

**Romans 8:31-39 NKJV - 31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 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? 33 Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 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. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." 37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. 38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 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.**

- It seems like our world is more uncertain every single day doesn't it? You open the news app, you go on social media, you turn on your tv and it is full of more cases of death, more political division, another scandal of a CEO or celebrity. More and more confusion, noise and uncertainty.
- With wars and rumors of wars. With the moral failings of others blasted for all to see. With the voices of opposing sides getting higher in pitch. With new technologies rapidly changing the world we knew, and changing how society functions, we can find ourselves full of uncertainty.
- Added to that the uncertainty of our own personal lives! The uncertainty of our health, the uncertainty of our jobs, of our wealth, of our relationships. We're all going through something that ends in questions marks and we don't know how it'll go.
- But in all that uncertainty, there is a solid foundation of truth that we can stand on. That is that God loves me, and that nothing in this life can separate me from His love if I'm in Him. The reality that God loves you, and that nothing in this life can separate you from His love if you are in Him.
- As we finish Romans 8 today, these scriptures that can fill us with hope and encourage our weary souls, it is important we remember the setting in which they come in.
- Paul has been talking about living the life of the Spirit. He told us in chapter 6 that the life of the Spirit would not be lived in the flesh and lead to sinful living. In chapter 7, he told us the life of the Spirit cannot be lived by trying to live under the Law, be it the Old Covenant laws or man made ones. But then in Chapter 8, he showed us what the Life of the Spirit is like.
- In the first verses he showed us how it is a life free from the power of sin, made alive in the Spirit. Then he showed us how it is a life of adoption into a new family, having been made new and brought into God's family as a child of God, how we have a new identity that we are to believe and walk in. Then, he began talking of how the life of the Spirit operates when we go through suffering, and this is where he's climaxing this thought.
- He showed us how we need to expect there to be suffering in this life, but we can hold on to hope, because of the promise of Heaven and the final redemption. The promise where this body of flesh will be redeemed and we will no longer be fighting it, where nature itself will be redeemed and brought under rulership of its rightful king. Where the inward realities that have come by faith in Him will be manifested outwardly and completely. That hope of Heaven keeps us strong in times of darkness.
- He also told us how the the Holy Spirit comes within and helps us in our lives, and when we are at our weakest points, when we feel numb and broken and spent, and can't express ourselves in words, He steps in and prays for us, communing with the Father so that His will be done in our lives, and aligning our hearts with His, supplying us with the resources of Heaven to be able to continue forward withstanding the pressures that seek to crush us.
- He then reminded us that we are of those who've, because we've come by faith, have become of the chosen to be made into the image of His Son, the ultimate good. That no matter what this life throws at

us, God will ensure we can make it through as He works out the ultimate good of conforming us into that image.

- It is then, from there, that Paul springs forth and declares,
  - **Romans 8:31 NKJV - What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?**
  - **Romans 8:31 NLT - What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us?**
  - **Romans 8:31 The Message - So, what do you think? With God on our side like this, how can we lose?**
- In a world of so much uncertainty, hold fast to the solid foundation that is Christ. That is God Himself. To the one thing that is true. Though everything else may be falling apart, you can remain strong because He lives in you and stands with you, supplying all your needs.
- This is a declaration of faith, that if God is on your side, if God fights for you, if God is the one supplying, and praying and empowering you, you cannot be defeated.
- **“Our weak hearts, prone to legalism and unbelief, receive these words with great difficulty: God is for us ... They have failed Him; but He is for them. They are ignorant; but He is for them. They have not yet brought forth much fruit; but He is for them.” - Newell**
- Paul then says, to further prove the point:
  - **Romans 8:32 NKJV - 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?**
  - **Romans 8:32 NLT - Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else?**
  - **Romans 8:32 The Message - If God didn't hesitate to put everything on the line for us, embracing our condition and exposing himself to the worst by sending his own Son, is there anything else he wouldn't gladly and freely do for us?**
- Paul is asking you to analyze what God did. If God was willing to give His Son, if Jesus was willing to sacrifice Himself for our sakes, to pay the ultimate price and give it all, why would He then not do what He promised? Why would He withhold anything else?
- If He was willing to pay such a high price, why would He withhold His Spirit? Why would He hold back on His inheritance? Why would He not help you in the storms of your life?
- The argument is simple. If God was already willing to pay such a high price, why would you doubt His willingness to provide and help you in all these other ways. If He was willing to pay such a high price, why would you doubt His willingness to forgive. His willingness to empower. His willingness to provide, guide, teach, reveal, and so much more?
- Though we may not see the deliverance and healing in its totality in this life, why would you doubt His ability to keep you going and empower you till you've finished your race? Because He has proven He will go to the furthest lengths out of love for us, even while we were yet sinners and rebels, how would He not now care for those whom He has made His own children and citizens of His kingdom.
- **This is the truth that can hold as a solid ground in an unstable world, that God's love for you is certain.**
- Notice, that God is for those who believe Him, who have been joined to Him by faith in the work of His Son! Cults and religious figures may declare God is for them, but God is not. He is for those who have come and joined with Him by faith in His Son, who have transformed by the Spirit of life and walk the Life of the Spirit. Not the law or flesh.
- God is for you! He is with you!
- This truth isn't just for our times of trials, but also for when we feel condemned and accused!
  - **Romans 8:33-34 NKJV - Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 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.**
  - **Romans 8:33-34 NLT - Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? No one—for God himself has given us right standing with himself. Who then will condemn us? No**

**one—for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God’s right hand, pleading for us.**

- **Romans 8:22-24 The Message - And who would dare tangle with God by messing with one of God’s chosen? Who would dare even to point a finger? The One who died for us—who was raised to life for us!—is in the presence of God at this very moment sticking up for us.**
- In this life, you will be condemned. Maybe it's the legalist who condemns you for your lack of religious works. Maybe it is the unbeliever who condemns you because they declare your beliefs to be bigoted and unloving and archaic. The Bible calls Satan a liar and accuser, and warns us that he and his demons seeks to deceive us into condemning ourselves, lying to ourselves.
- Maybe you do condemn yourself. You convince yourself that you are a failure. That God could not forgive you, that your failing your family, that you are a bad parent or a bad child, that your a failure in life, that you've committed to many wrongs to deserve His love. That you aren't worthy of His time and care.
  - Look at what Paul says:
    - **Romans 8:33 NKJV - Who shall bring a charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies.**
  - By faith, you became part of God's elect. He has declared you justified. Just as if you have never done it. He did this for your past sins, your present struggles and your future failures. He has taken care of all of it. He has made you just. Given you the beauty and perfection of all He is. This is your identity. Yes you still struggle outwardly with fallen flesh, but inside, this is your reality. You stand white as snow because you believed Him. You believed in Jesus' work.
- **Romans 8:34 NLT - Who then will condemn us? No one—for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God’s right hand, pleading for us.**
- The two problems of humanity, what kept us from God and His life, sin & death, were dealt with at the cross and at the tomb. His death wiped our slate, His resurrection conquered death. And now He sits in glory at the right hand of God as our advocate. And when the enemy of our souls comes to condemn us before Him, Jesus stands as our defender, declaring that He has paid the price of our crimes, and that we are free in Him!
- If you have believed this, if you have to and joined yourself with Jesus by faith, then this is true for you. You stand free of condemnation, free of sins power, free from death because you now have His life in you!
- **"We are secure from every charge against us. If we are declared “not guilty” by the highest Judge, who can bring an additional charge? We are secure from all condemnation. If Jesus is our advocate, promoting our benefit, then who can condemn us?" - David Guzik**
- But Paul is not done! Because so often in the midst of pain, suffering, trials and tribulations we can give in to these thoughts. We listen to the lies that tell us that if we lack in this life, if we suffer, it is because He's angry with us and punishes us for our wrongs, even if we've believed. Paul is going to show that no matter what happens to us in our life, God is for us. To those who are His children, who've been brought into His kingdom, He will never leave you nor forsake you. And even in the midst of suffering, we cannot believe the lies.
  - **Romans 8:35-36 NKJV - Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written: “For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.”**
  - **Romans 8:35-36 NLT - Can anything ever separate us from Christ’s love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? (As the Scriptures say, “For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep.”)**
  - **Romans 8:35-36 The Message - Do you think anyone is going to be able to drive a wedge between us and Christ’s love for us? There is no way! Not trouble, not hard times, not hatred, not hunger, not homelessness, not bullying threats, not backstabbing, not even the worst sins listed in Scripture: They kill us in cold blood because they hate you. We’re sitting ducks; they pick us off one by one.**

- Paul quotes from Psalms 44:22. Paul has made clear that God does not spare us from the difficulties of life. Those who teach that if you have enough faith, you'll always be healthy and wealthy, are false teachers, heretics, who do not understand that scriptures or reality. They deceive themselves and others for the sake of gaining wealth.
- But Paul is making the argument here that if we are enduring these trials, if we are going through suffering and pain and uncertainty while seeking the Lord, do you think He'll abandon us? NO! We may even fail a trial, yet He is not done with us. He does not forsake us.
- Do you think God forsook the faithful martyrs like Polycarp, William Tyndale, and even those today dying because they follow Him? NO! He does not abandon you. As you go through the trials of your life, know He is near to you, He empowers and helps you, He supplies what you need, even in something as brutal as martyrdom. In fact, He does so much more!
  - **Romans 8:37 NKJV - Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.**
  - **Romans 8:37 NLT - No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.**
  - **Romans 8:37 Good News Translation - No, in all these things we have complete victory through him who loved us!**
- God has made you a complete victor. An absolute conqueror, a super conqueror. We already live in victory. When the pressures of this world seek to crush us, remember that this world, its rulers and systems, the enemy, has already been defeated. The assaults against believer's are nothing more than the death throes of a fallen kingdom. They are the skirmishes of the defeated who refuse to go down quietly.
- No matter what this life throws at you, you can stand victorious, because we are not fighting to gain victory, we are fighting from victory. Jesus has already freed you and given you victory over your sins and vices, now we must believe and walk into that reality, letting our minds be renewed to the new nature He's given us.
  - **John 16:33 NKJV - "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."**
  - **1 John 5:4 NLT - "For every child of God defeats this evil world, and we achieve this victory through our faith."**
- Do you realize you ARE a conqueror? That you ARE victorious? It might not feel that way in life. There might be days when you feel anything but victorious. But this is our reality by faith in the One who has achieved the ultimate victory and has made captive and broken down all principalities and powers of the Kingdom of Darkness, shattering them.
- So knowing this, realizing this reality of who you are and who God is, then as you walk the life of the Spirit, knowing there will be opposition and difficulties and struggles, you can walk confidently in faith, declaring the final words of this chapter.
  - **Romans 8:38-39 NKJV - For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 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.**
  - **Romans 8:38-39 NLT - And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.**
  - **Romans 8:38-39 The Message - I'm absolutely convinced that nothing—nothing living or dead, angelic or demonic, today or tomorrow, high or low, thinkable or unthinkable—absolutely nothing can get between us and God's love because of the way that Jesus our Master has embraced us.**

- Nothing in existence can separate you from the One who has declared He will never leave you nor forsake you. He has promised He has come to dwell in you and give you life, that He will finish the work He began, that He will be with you always, and He does not break His promises.
- We who have been made one with Him by faith in His work and person, who have been welcomed into His Kingdom and adopted into His family, can live in the ever present confidence of His love. In a world full of change, uncertainty and instability, we can be secured in His Love.
- I'll close with this Hymn called "The Love of God" and then we'll take communion:
  - The love of God is greater far
  - Than tongue or pen can ever tell.
  - It goes beyond the highest star
  - And reaches to the lowest hell.
  - The guilty pair, bowed down with care,
  - God gave His Son to win;
  - His erring child He reconciled
  - And pardoned from his sin.
  - O love of God, how rich and pure!
  - How measureless and strong!
  - It shall forevermore endure—
  - The saints' and angels' song.
  - When hoary time shall pass away,
  - And earthly thrones and kingdoms fall;
  - When men who here refuse to pray,
  - On rocks and hills and mountains call;
  - God's love, so sure, shall still endure,
  - All measureless and strong;
  - Redeeming grace to Adam's race—
  - The saints' and angels' song.
  - Could we with ink the ocean fill,
  - And were the skies of parchment made;
  - Were every stalk on earth a quill,
  - And every man a scribe by trade;
  - To write the love of God above
  - Would drain the ocean dry;
  - Nor could the scroll contain the whole,
  - Though stretched from sky to sky.

## COMMUNION