

Romans 8:31



Coffee Cup Bible. We've got two more to go and we're going to look this week at Romans 8:31 which says, "What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us?"

Now like a lot of passages that we've looked at throughout our time here, this isn't a passage that we don't understand or that we take and apply to a group of people that it was never meant to apply to or that we just rip out of context and make it mean something completely different. The problem with this passage, and it's a very well-known passage, is that we often make it more than what it's actually saying.

If God is for us, who is against us? I think a lot of times we look at this like a little kid with his dad where it's like, your dad is big and strong. It doesn't matter what comes against you because you've got Dad there. If it's a scary dream, if it's a scary person, whatever, it doesn't matter because you've got Dad there. So, if Dad's with you, then it doesn't matter what comes against you, and it does mean that to a degree, but we need to look at the context that this verse is placed in.

Verses 29-30, "For those he foreknew, he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son so that he would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those he predestined, he also called, and those he called, he also justified, and those he justified, he also glorified." Those are the "these things" that the first part of the verse is referencing. So, it doesn't mean that if God is for us then no harm is going to befall me. If God's for me then nothing bad is ever going to have and I'm always going to have the money and this and that and the other thing. It's not it's not saying that.

It's not just the, again, the kid with his dad where nothing bad's going to happen because Dad's there. We have to look at it in this in this broader picture. If God is with us, then as these passages say, we are going to be conformed to the image of his son. We're going to be the firstborn. We're predestined. We're called. We're, we're justified, and we will be glorified.

That's what God's saying in the bigger picture, and we kind of looked at this with Romans 8:28. It's not that no bad's ever going to happen. It's that God is with us, and so all the little struggles we go through, all the things that happen in our lives, these bad things that are simply just bad. They're not good. We shouldn't brush over that. God has a greater purpose in mind and this verse isn't going to be completely fulfilled on this side of heaven, but we can take faith that that God's got it all figured out and we can trust and hope in him through all the difficulties of life.

And so just a couple of discussion questions as you go to discuss this video. First, where in your life right now do you honestly feel like God is against you? And if there's no situation, that's an acceptable answer. But, I think a lot of times we all even though we know the truth, we have this feeling like God is against us. Where might that be happening in your life right now?

And second, in your current life situations, what does it really mean that God is actively for you in those things?