

Evening Worship / February 19, 2023
"God is For Us! Expounded!" Romans 8:31-39

³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? Romans 8:31 (NKJV)

In Romans 8:31, the Apostle Paul introduces his conclusion to the doctrinal section of this letter to the Romans. What shall we say to these things, two things:

1. *If God be for us,*
2. *Who can be against us?*

How is God for us?

I. God gave us His Son –

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? Romans 8:32 (NKJV)

1. *Notice what God does not do for His beloved Son Jesus Christ –*

³² He who did not spare His own Son, ...

A. God did not spare His Son from the wrath deserved for our sins –

¹⁰ Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, ... Isaiah 53:10 A (NKJV)

B. Did not spare meant there was no easing of pain, there was no relief from God's heated wrath aimed at His own Son! It means when Jesus cried from the cross –

⁴⁶ And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" Matthew 27:46 (NKJV)

That God really did forsake Him, He really endured the wrath that we deserved!

C. Revelation 14:10-11 speaks powerfully about the wrath those souls will experience who choose the anti-Christ over Christ –

¹⁰ he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. ¹¹ And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name." Revelation 14:10–11 (NKJV)

Notice wrath is poured out full strength- Revelation 14:10, and the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever – Revelation 14:11!

"Did Not spare" Romans 8:32 means Christ endured in time, on the cross, the same pain, rejection, and humiliation, which those in Hell will endure for eternity!

2. *Notice what God did do to His Son for us - but delivered Him up for us all Romans 8:32 B*

How was Jesus Christ delivered up for us?

A. *He was made sin for us, that we might become righteous –*

²¹ For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. 2 Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV)

B. *He was made a curse for us –*

¹³ Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, “*Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree*”), ¹⁴ that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. Galatians 3:13–14 (NKJV)

- *That we might be redeemed from the curse*
- *That we might receive the promise of the Spirit*

C. *He was delivered up to the sinful ways of godless men (animals) –*

¹² Many bulls have surrounded Me; Strong *bulls* of Bashan have encircled Me. ¹³ They gape at Me with their mouths, Like a raging and roaring lion. Psalm 22:12–13 (NKJV)

¹⁶ For dogs have surrounded Me; The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet; ¹⁷ I can count all My bones. They look *and* stare at Me. ¹⁸ They divide My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots. Psalm 22:16–18 (NKJV)

¹⁹ So then Pilate took Jesus and scourged *Him*. ² And the soldiers twisted a crown of thorns and put *it* on His head, and they put on Him a purple robe. ³ Then they said, “Hail, King of the Jews!” And they struck Him with their hands. John 19:1–3 (NKJV)

D. *He was delivered to be crucified –*

¹⁴ Now it was the Preparation Day of the Passover, and about the sixth hour. And he said to the Jews, “Behold your King!” ¹⁵ But they cried out, “Away with *Him*, away with *Him*! Crucify Him!” Pilate said to them, “Shall I crucify your King?” The chief priests answered, “We have no king but Caesar!” ¹⁶ Then he delivered Him to them to be crucified. Then they took Jesus and led *Him* away. John 19:14–16 (NKJV)

Notice in John 19:16 “he” lower case “h” delivered Jesus up to be crucified, he in that verse is Pilate, but God did this too, God was and is in control –

²⁷ “For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together ²⁸ to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done. Acts 4:27–28 (NKJV)

E. *This is a case where what Joseph said to his brothers who sold him into slavery is true -*

¹⁹ Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid, for *am* I in the place of God? ²⁰ But as for you, you meant evil against me; *but* God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as *it is* this day, to save many people alive. Genesis 50:19–20 (NKJV)

God’s delivering up of His Son was for OUR GOOD –

⁵ and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, Revelation 1:5 (NKJV)

What can wash away our sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus!

II. God defends us from all our enemies –
... who can be against us? Romans 8:31 B (NKJV)

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.* Romans 8:33–34 (NKJV)

1. *Note the rhetorical questions –*

A rhetorical question is a question as without expectation of any contrary answer. Paul knew no one could lay any charge against God's elect@

Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect? (τις ἐγκαλεσει κατα ἐκλεκτων θεου; [*tis egkalesei kata eklektōn theou?*]). Future active indicative of ἐγκαλεω [*egkaleō*], old verb, to come forward as accuser (forensic term) in case in court, to impeach, A T Robertson

A. *Not God, He is the One Who Justifies us, He sent Christ!*

B. *Not Jesus Christ, He is the One Who died for us, Who is risen and prays for us-*

²⁴ But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood. ²⁵ Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

²⁶ For such a High Priest was fitting for us, *who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens;* ²⁷ *who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself.* Hebrews 7:24–27 (NKJV)

2. *God's people have the worst enemies, but they are defeated, consider the Devil, Satan –*

¹⁴ Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, Hebrews 2:14 (NKJV)

⁹ So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

¹⁰ Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. ¹¹ And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. Revelation 12:9–11 (NKJV)

3. *Things which seem to be against us, do not really or ultimately hurt us -*

³⁶ And Jacob their father said to them, "You have bereaved me: Joseph is no *more*, Simeon is no *more*, and you want to take Benjamin. All these things are against me." Genesis 42:36 (NKJV)

See how differently Jacob saw things later -God, before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, The God who has fed me all my life long to this day, ¹⁶ The Angel who has redeemed me from all evil, ... Genesis 48:15 B-16 A (NKJV)

*"Disappointment, His appointment, no good thing does He withhold,
often from denials we gather, treasures of His love untold."*

Edith Lillian Young

III. God's love for us makes us victorious no matter what –

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. Romans 8:35–39 (NKJV)

1. *These negative things are mentioned - tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword ... Because our Lord Jesus Christ endured them, if He endured them, we should expect them too –*

¹⁸ **“If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. John 15:18 (NKJV)**

2. But these things cannot defeat us –

³³ **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.” John 16:33 (NKJV)**

3. *We are more than conquerors; we are SUPER SHEEP –*

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.

Romans 8:37 (NA28)

37 ἀλλ' ἐν τούτοις πᾶσιν ὑπερνικῶμεν διὰ* τοῦ ἀγαπήσαντος ἡμᾶς*.

More than conquerors – hyper-Nike ... if they kill us we just go to Heaven FASTER! Jesus Christ's LOVE, God's LOVE lifts us above all dangers and trials!

October 16, 1555, Hugh Latimer and Nicolas Ridley were led out to be burned at the stake. “As the fire was lit, Latimer said, “Be of good comfort, Master Ridley, and play the man. We shall this day light such a candle by God’s grace in England as I trust shall never be put out.” Michael E Rusten.

4. *Paul's persuasion – Romans 8:38–39 (NKJV)*

“Do you know what happens to people when they are persuaded? They become convinced, and people who are convinced have convictions; and people who have convictions live according to principles. How else can you explain the life and ministry of Paul, apart from the fact that he was a man who had been persuaded. That’s what we need in the church—people who are convinced that nothing can separate them from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Paul gives a list of things that could possibly disrupt and rupture our relationship with Christ: death, life, angels, demons, the present, the future, powers, height, depth, anything else in all creation. He could have said it in one sentence: ‘Brethren, nothing can separate us from the love of Christ.’ That’s the point he is making. There is nothing in this universe that can separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. We know that we are ultimately safe and secure in Christ.” R. C. Sproul