

Romans 8:35–39

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.

“Christ Will Hold Me Fast” **Romans 8:28-39**

INTRO:

The first part of **Romans** is a systematic presentation of the Gospel which Paul preached. It is a gospel that shown forth the righteousness of God we take hold of by faith. It is built on our first understanding we are lost and without hope in the world. Second, God declares us righteous because we put our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ to save us. Third, we who trusted the Lord Jesus to save us are being changed. He is making us into the image of His Son. The summary result of all this is **Romans 8:28-39**. In our flyover we will stop briefly to see His promise and then survey the result of His promise in us.

I. The Promise (28-30)

II. The Implications of the Promise (31-39)

I. The Promise (28-30)

Romans 8:28–30 *“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.”*

A. Paul summarizes the fulfillment of our salvation in a great promise. God promises He will work all things together for our good. Each thing is not good in itself.

However, God, in His providence, will weave together the good and the bad to produce good in our lives.

B. The good is our conformation into the image of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

v.29 *“For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.”*

God is doing this because He is calling out a people for Himself.

Titus 2:13-14 *“Looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.”*

C. Paul demonstrates how eternal this salvation we read about in **Romans 1-7** is in **verses 29-30**.

“For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified”

This is looking at our salvation through the eyes of our eternal God. When did He set His love on us? He did it before the foundation of the world. When did He predestinate us? Again, that happened before the foundation of the world. When did He call us? He did that in time. When did He justify us? Again He did it when He called us. When did He glorify us? That will happen in eternity future.

D. What does this tell us? Our salvation is signed, sealed, and delivered as far as God is concerned.

II. The Implications of the Promise (31-39)

Romans 8:31–32 *“What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 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?”*

A. The first question in **verse 31** is the over-arching summary which is broken down in three sub-questions Paul asks and answers in the rest of this text. What can we say to this wonderful salvation from our sins? This salvation which Jesus accomplished for us on His cross?

B. First, *“if God be for us, who can be against us?”* When it comes to deliverance from our sin, who can be against us? Who can steal from us the promise of God? Who can frustrate the providence of God in our lives? No one can. Why? Because the God who gave us His only begotten Son, will also bring to completion the salvation He purchased for us.

C. Second, **Romans 8:33–34**

“Who shall bring a charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. 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.”

We might think, Oh no, I may not make it because Satan will bring a charge against me.

1. Paul answered this concern by pointing out we belong to God because He chose us and because God Himself is the one who has declared us righteous.
2. The Lord Jesus will not join Satan in the complaint because He is the one who has died to pay the price for our sin. He also rose again to show that God the Father has accepted the price of our redemption. He also ever lives to minister for us in prayer every step of our earthly pilgrimage.

D. Third, **verse 35**

“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?”

This last question takes in the rest of the chapter. Verse 35 reads almost like the catalogue of Paul’s sufferings in **2 Corinthians 11** and **12**.

1. Paul then cites a memory verse from the LXX of **Psalm 44:22**. What a strange verse to quote, except if we realize that God never promised us a rose garden. He never said Christians would go through life with our trouble. The fact is even the most difficult troubles do not mean that God has forsaken His own. **Verse 37** assures us,

“Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.”

2. **Verses 38-39** put the exclamation point to Paul’s argument. Notice the couplets: life or death; angels or rulers; things present or things to come; heights nor depths. There are two that break up the order of twos: powers, and any other created thing. What is not covered? Nothing is left out. Paul touched on every possible circumstance. Nothing can separate us from God’s love for us who are in Christ Jesus.

3. Why? It is NOT because we keep ourselves saved. From **8:28** to the end of this chapter, this is all about what the Lord did and does for us. If we have honestly come to Him by faith, He holds us fast.

Two Issues are important here.

- 1) This was not written so we could sin and believe we do not have to worry about our salvation. Rather this is written for the same reason John wrote the first chapter of **1 John**.

1 John 2:1 *“My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.”*

2) This was written so we understand the blessings that the Lord Jesus Christ purchased for us. These are blessings we enjoy by grace through faith. Thus we will glorify Him and live out our lives wanting to do nothing else than to live for Him who died for us.

He Will Hold Me Fast