

## ROMANS 33 – PAUL'S DOXOLOGY

ROMANS 8:31-39  
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### PROLOGUE: CHILDISH PERSPECTIVE

- NO MATTER HOW MATURE WE BELIEVE OURSELVES, COMPARED TO GOD WE ARE BARELY INFANTS IN UNDERSTANDING (1st 33:8-9)
- CHRIST TOLD HIS APOSTLES THAT UNLESS ONE BECOMES LIKE A CHILD, EAGER TO LEARN, ONE CANNOT ENTER HEAVEN (1st 18:1-4)
- CHRIST COMPARED THE JEWS OF HIS COMING AS FOOLISH CHILDREN REFUSING TO HUMBLE THEMSELVES TO HEAR GOD (1st 11:18-19)

### PROLOGUE: SPIRIT—MEMBER OF TRINITY

- THE SPIRIT IS ALSO ONE WITH GOD, KNOWING THE MIND OF GOD YET DISTINCT FROM HIM IN A MANNER UNFATHOMABLE
  - FATHER IS SPOKEN OF AS A PERSON – ANTHROPOMORPHISM
  - SON IS OBSERVED IN THE BIBLE AS A PERSON REPRESENTING US
  - HARD TO GRASP THE SPIRIT AS AN ENTITY: INCORPOREAL
  - IN THE BIBLE THE SPIRIT IS IN THE NEUTER FORM EMPHASIZING HIS MINISTRY TO POINT ONLY TO CHRIST, NOT ITSELF (2d 14:12-13)

## PROLOGUE: CHRIST, THE FIRSTBORN

- CHRIST IS THE FIRSTBORN (ΠΡΩΤΟΤΟΚΟΣ ΠΡΩΤΟΤΟΚΟΣ) OF ALL WHO WILL BE SAVED
  - FIRSTBORN SPEAKS OF HIS BEING BORN IN THE FLESH AS HE WAS ALWAYS ETERNALLY GOD
    - (COL. 1:13-20; HE 1:6-19; 2:14-18)
  - JUST AS HE REFLECTS THE VERY IMAGE OF THE FATHER, SO ALSO WILL WE REFLECT THE IMAGE OF CHRIST
  - HE IS THE FIRSTBORN FROM THE DEAD GIVING US HOPE OF OUR COMING RESURRECTION (BT 1:4-6)

## PAUL'S DOXOLOGY BUILD-UP

- PAUL CONCLUDES HIS LOGICAL ARGUMENT OF HIS GOSPEL TO THE ROMANS BY ENDING ON A HIGH POINT THAT MAKES FAITH IN CHRIST THE ONLY COHERENT AND CLEAR CHOICE
  - HE BORROWS FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT, HIS BIBLE, LAYING A FOUNDATION FROM THE VERY BEGINNING OF GOD'S WORKING THROUGH ONE MAN, ABRAHAM
  - HE THEN ASKS A SERIES OF QUESTIONS WHOSE ANSWERS ARE OBVIOUS TO BELIEVERS
  - HE DOES NOT SHRINK FROM THE HARD ISSUES AND HIGHLIGHTS EXPECTED PERSECUTIONS
  - HE DISCUSSES THAT BELIEVERS ARE CONQUERORS BY GAINING ETERNAL LIFE IN CHRIST
  - HE ENDS WITH A DOXOLOGY OF GOD'S LOVE IN CHRIST FOR BELIEVERS THAT NEVER ENDS

## THEREFORE...THE GOSPEL'S SUFFICIENCY

- THEREFORE IS IN THE GREEK THOUGH IT IS ABSENT IN THE ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS
  - THEREFORE TIES TOGETHER WHAT WAS DISCUSSED PREVIOUSLY TO ADVANCE A LOGICAL CONCLUSION
  - THIS IS THE FOURTH LAW OF LOGIC – LAW OF LOGICAL INFERENCES
  - PAUL IS REALLY ASKING, "THEREFORE, WHAT SHALL WE SAY AGAINST THESE THINGS?" AGAINST EVERY POINT HE HAS PRESENTED SINCE THE BEGINNING (RO 1:18)
  - THIS RHETORICAL QUESTION IS DESIGNED TO CHALLENGE THE READER TO THINK IF HE, OR SHE, HAS ANY OBJECTIONS TO THE GOSPEL PAUL HAS PRESENTED

## IS GOD TRULY GOD?

- PAUL ANSWERS HIS OWN QUESTION CHALLENGING THE READER TO UNDERSTAND THE SUFFICIENCY OF GOD OVER ALL THINGS
  - “IF GOD IS FOR US (BELIEVERS), WHO CAN BE AGAINST US?”
  - THERE ARE MANY FORCES AGAINST THE BELIEVER INCLUDING THE BELIEVER’S OWN FLESH
  - PAUL CHALLENGES THE BELIEVER TO UNDERSTAND THE POWER OF GOD COMPARED WITH THE SUPPOSED POWER OF THOSE ARRAYING THEMSELVES AGAINST GOD VIA THE BELIEVER
  - BELIEVER OFTEN SEES ONLY THE EMPIRICAL IN THE MOMENT (20:4-11, 17)
  - GOD IS NOT EMPIRICAL BUT SPIRITUAL REQUIRING MATURITY TO REST IN THE WRESTLE (10:4-21, 26)

## THE DEPTH OF GOD’S DEVOTION FOR BELIEVERS

- LOST CANNOT FATHOM THAT GOD WOULD SACRIFICE HIS OWN SON FOR MAN’S SALVATION RATHER THAN DEMAND THAT MAN PROVE HIMSELF WORTHY OF SAVING
  - THE ANCIENT, AND MODERN WORLD, COULD NOT, AND CANNOT, FATHOM THAT GOD PROVIDED HIMSELF AS SACRIFICE FOR SINFUL MANKIND
  - YET, ABRAHAM WAS THE HISTORICAL AND QUINTESSENTIAL EXAMPLE OF WHAT WAS TO COME (18:22-1:19)
  - GOD SHOWED WHAT WOULD BE REQUIRED TO OBTAIN SALVATION; EXCEPT, SINFUL MAN COULD NEVER QUALIFY AS THE SUFFICIENT SACRIFICE FOR SELF, LET ALONE FOR ALL THE ELECT

## GOD GAVE HIS SON, A MEASURE OF HIS SACRIFICE

- IMAGINE THE HEARTBREAK OF HAVING TO SACRIFICE ONE’S OWN CHILD TO OBTAIN GOD’S BLESSING
  - LOST MAN HISTORICALLY OFFERED CHILD SACRIFICE TO SECURE THE GOD’S BLESSING (18:12-13)
  - MOLOCH WAS THE MESOPOTAMIAN IDOL INTO WHOSE RED HOT HANDS INFANTS WOULD BE LAID (18:23-1:10)
  - GREEK HISTORIAN CLEITARCHUS REPORTED THE CARTHAGIANIANS SACRIFICING THEIR CHILDREN TO KRONOS (REGIONAL NAME FOR BAAI), BRONZE IDOL, AS THE CHILDREN BURNED THEY EXHIBITED A SARDONIC SMILE
  - MUSIC WAS PLAYED TO DROWN THE WALLS OF THE PARENTS AS THEY WATCHED THE CHILDREN DIE

## CHRIST WILLINGLY CAME TO DO THE FATHER'S WILL

- JESUS PROCLAIMED THAT ONLY HE CAN LAY DOWN AND PICK UP HIS LIFE (JO 10:17-18)
  - JESUS WILLINGLY CAME TO DIE FOR THOSE WHOM GOD CHOSE TO RECEIVE ETERNAL LIFE
  - EVEN MORE ASTOUNDING, JESUS BECAME SIN, THOUGH SINLESS, TO SATISFY THE FATHER'S JUDGMENT FOR SIN (2CO 5:21)
  - THIS IS THE DEMONSTRATION OF THE FATHER'S LOVE THAT HE GAVE HIS SON FOR US (JP 3:4-5)
  - SINCE GOD DEMONSTRATED HIS LOVE IN THIS FASHION, WILL HE NOT ALSO FULFILL HIS PROMISES LEST CHRIST'S SACRIFICE BE IN VAIN?

## WHO WILL BRING A CHARGE AGAINST BELIEVERS?

- PAUL NOW BEGINS A SERIES OF RHETORICAL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS THEM IN A STACCATO-LIKE MANNER SHOWING THEIR ABSURDITY
  - "WHO SHALL BRINGS ANY ACCUSATION AGAINST GOD'S ELECT?"
  - CLEARLY, PAUL BELIEVES IN ELECTION MUCH TO THE CHAGRIN OF MANY OF TODAY'S CHRISTIANS
  - THE ONE WHO ALWAYS ACCUSES GOD'S ELECT IS SATAN WHO'S TITLE IS, "THE ACCUSER"
  - HE WAS THROWN DOWN TO THE EARTH AT CHRIST'S VICTORY OVER DEATH (JE 12:10-12)
  - NOW, HE IS IN GREAT WRATH SEEKING WHOM HE MAY DEVOUR, BUT ONLY THE LOST (1PE 5:6-8)

## ONLY GOD CAN JUSTIFY

- NO MATTER THE CHARGES SATAN BRINGS, GOD JUSTIFIES THE BELIEVER
  - BELIEVERS ARE CLOTHED IN CHRIST'S RIGHTEOUSNESS, NOT THEIR OWN (PH 3:9-11)
  - THIS WAS PROVIDED BY CHRIST WHOSE RESURRECTION PROVED HE SATISFIED GOD'S JUDGMENT OF SIN IN OUR STEAD
  - SITTING AT THE RIGHT HAND OF THE FATHER IN HEAVEN, CHRIST EXERCISES THE POWER OF THE FATHER KEEPING BELIEVERS FROM BEING SNATCHED AWAY (JO 10:27-30)
  - CHRIST IS OUR ADVOCATE (PARAKLETOS) BEFORE THE FATHER (1JO 2:1-6)
  - WE ARE NOT FREE TO LIVE IRRESPONSIBLY FOR WE WILL GIVE AN ACCOUNT AT THE BEMA SEAT (2CO 5:10)

## WHO SHALL DIVORCE CHRIST FROM US?

- THE WORD TRANSLATED AS SEPARATION IS THE SAME WORD USED FOR DIVORCE
  - WHO CAN DIVORCE CHRIST FROM US FOR WE HAVE NOT THE POWER TO DIVORCE OURSELVES FROM HIM
  - JUST AS ADAM PROCLAIMED THAT EVE WAS ONE FLESH WITH HIM, THOUGH SIN QUICKLY RENT THAT ASUNDER, IT WAS A PICTURE OF THE RELATIONSHIP OF CHRIST WITH BELIEVERS (GE 26-24)
  - THIS IS WHY DIVORCE WAS NOT GOD’S NORM FROM THE BEGINNING BUT WAS PROVIDED ONLY BECAUSE OF MAN’S, AND WOMAN’S, SINFULLY HARD HEART (MT 19:8)
  - WE ARE PART OF THE BRIDE OF CHRIST, HE WILL NOT DIVORCE THOSE HE DIED TO SAVE (HOS 2; MT 2:18-20; EP 5:25-31; HE 21:1-3)

## WHAT IN CREATION CAN DIVORCE US FROM CHRIST?

- PAUL NOW LISTS A SERIES OF CURRENT AND CONSTANT RESPONSES BELIEVERS CAN AND WILL FACE FROM SATAN, THE WORLD AND THEIR FLESH FOR BEING MARRIED TO CHRIST
  - TRIBULATION – MEANS PRESSING DOWN TO MAKE US RENOUNCE CHRIST AND DIE
  - DISTRESS – MEANS A NARROWING OF A WIDE SPACE BY OBSTACLES THWARTING OUR WALK
  - PERSECUTION – TO DRIVE AWAY OR CHASE AFTER TO DRIVE US FROM CHRIST
  - FAMINE – TO BE DESTITUTE TO THE POINT OF BEING UNABLE TO BUY FOOD FOR LIFE
  - NAKEDNESS – TO BE IN SUCH BITTER NEED THAT ONE CANNOT CLOTHE THE BODY
  - DANGER – UNCERTAINTY FROM THE VICISSITUDES OF THE LOST WORLD WHICH HATES BELIEVERS
  - SWORD – LIABLE TO DIE AT THE HAND OF THE STATE SIMPLY FOR EXISTING AND BELIEVING IN HIM

## THE WORLD HATES BELIEVERS IN CHRIST...

- PAUL QUOTES FROM THE PSALMS SHOWING THAT THE LOST HAVE ALWAYS HATED BELIEVERS IN GOD (PS 44:22)
  - THIS REFERENCE TO SHEEP BEING SLAUGHTERED REFERS TO SACRIFICIAL SHEEP
  - PAUL, CLOSE TO HIS COMING EXECUTION, REFERRED TO HIMSELF AS A SACRIFICE BEING POURED OUT FOR CHRIST (DRINK OFFERING; LAST OFFERING MADE IN A SERIES OF OFFERINGS) (2T 44-4)
  - BELIEVERS LIFE WAS TO BE A LIVING SACRIFICE TO CHRIST WHO SACRIFICED HIMSELF BOTH ON THE STAUROS AND TAKING ON THE FORM OF MAN (RO 7:5; EP 5:2; PH 2:6-8)
  - THIS SEPARATES US FROM THE LOST WHOSE SACRIFICES ARE TO DEMONS; I.E., SATAN (1CO 10:20)

## WE ARE CONQUERORS THROUGH CHRIST

- **THOUGH THE WORLD VIEWS US AS OBJECTS TO BE HATED AND ELIMINATED IN THIS LIFE, WE ARE CONQUERORS TO BE USHERED INTO ETERNITY FUTURE WITH CHRIST WHO OVERCAME ALL FOR THE FATHER**
  - **DEATH AND LIFE – CHRIST OVERCAME DEATH EVEN AS ADAM SUCCUMBED TO A LIFE OF SIN** (JE 34-6; 1CO 15:53-57)
  - **ANGELS OR RULERS – FALLEN ANGELS AND THE KINGDOMS OF MAN WHO ARE VASSALS OF SATAN SHALL NOT DIVORCE US FROM CHRIST THOUGH THIS IS SATAN’S GOAL**
  - **THINGS PRESENT OR TO COME – THERE ARE NO ISSUES THAT ARE BEYOND THE WILL OF GOD AND THUS ABLE TO COME BETWEEN GOD AND BELIEVERS LEAVING US ADRIPT TO SATAN’S WHIMS**

## NOTHING IN CREATION DIVORCES US FROM GOD

- **THERE IS NO OBSTACLE IN CREATION THAT CAN DIVORCE US FROM THE GOD OF CREATION**
  - **HIGHT – HAS THE CONNOTATION IMMENSE INSURMOUNTABLE OBSTACLES**
  - **DEPTH – CARRIES THE CONNOTATION OF THE DEPTHS OF THE OCEAN OR THE ABYSS**
- **GOD, WHO MADE CREATION AND IS OUTSIDE OF THIS CREATION IS MORE POWERFUL THAN ANY CREATED BARRIER OR FORCE**
  - **ALL CREATED OBJECTS AND BEINGS ARE LESS THAN GOD, THUS, THEY ARE POWERLESS TO PREVENT THE WILL OF GOD THOUGH THEY BELIEVE THEY HAVE VICTORY FOR A SEASON** (JE 1:24-28)
  - **LIKE ELISHA’S SLAVE WE NEED TO WALK WITH EYES OF FAITH TO SEE WHAT THE WORLD CANNOT**

## EPILOGUE: WHO SHALL DIVORCE CHRIST FROM US?

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## WHY DO BELIEVERS SHRINK BACK FROM FAITH

- **BELIEVERS ARE IN THEIR SINFUL FLESHLY, MORALLY WEAK BODIES, EASILY DECEIVED** (JE 10:23-24)
  - **LIKE PAUL, WE SEE HIS TRUTH AS THROUGH AN ENIGMA, WITH GREAT DIFFICULTY** (1CO 13:12)
  - **WE LOSE OUR FRANKNESS, SUCH AS CHRIST EXHIBITED IN HIS MINISTRY, UNDER THE WEIGHT OF THE WORLD’S ACCEPTANCE AND APPROVAL (SCIENTISMS AND SUPPOSED POWERS)**
  - **WE NEED ENDURANCE BUT SETTLE FOR THE PLEASURES OF THIS LIFE WHICH IS PASSING AWAY**
  - **WE LIVE BY SIGHT AND NOT BY FAITH RISKING NOT DIVORCE BUT CHASTENING** (JE 12:1-8)
  - **MANY BELIEVERS DELIBERATELY CONTINUE IN THEIR SIN; THERE IS NO MORE SACRIFICE BUT AN EXPECTATION OF JUDGMENT; FEAR IS A SIGN OF SIN WHEREAS HIS COMPLETE LOVE REMOVES FEAR** (JE 10:26-28; 1JO 4:16-18)