

Nothing is comparable to being a Christian and living and dying as such! To bring that out further, listen yet to this last question Paul asks in this special Scripture, **Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?** The answer to that question is, 'Nothing whatsoever!' Paul says, **I am persuaded that neither death, nor life...** and he mentions so much ending with, **nor any other creature shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.** You can have all kinds of trials and struggles here on earth, and who doesn't, including Christians? Yet, through it all God's people may know the Lord will be with them and He will help and guide you even through the darkest and deepest of valleys in life. What more can you ask for? Truly there is nothing more than that and nothing as needful and wonderful as faith in Jesus Christ, and belonging to Him in personal relationship with Him! Do you know this, dear friend? What would be the reason for you not to live and walk in true faith? If you think about it, won't this be the way you should go and most want to go and pray to go? **Let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take that water of life freely,** we read in Revelations 22:17. Softly and tenderly the living Savior, Jesus, through His Word is calling also now, "come home, sinner, repent and believe and be saved all for free, all through Him, all for real, all for ever!" Truly that is how it is!

Don't think you can be successful, more than conqueror in life and death, leaving God out of the picture or just giving Him from time to time some insincere formal nods. The Lord says, "Give Me your heart!" Not doing so, you will live and die forever regretting it, but giving the Lord your heart, turning from sin and following after Him, you will never regret it. Believing in Christ and following Him and His Word, you are infinitely blessed, infinitely loved, infinitely safe, infinitely rich, and infinitely secure. Nothing can compare to being a Christian by God's grace! Just read the book of Romans! Amen.

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BANNER OF TRUTH RADIO BROADCAST

Radio Ministry of the FREE REFORMED CHURCHES of North America

Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee that it may be displayed because of the truth. (Psalm 60:4)



SO GREAT A GOSPEL

The passage from the Holy Bible that this message is about is from Romans 8:31-39. The Apostle Paul writes here: ***"What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not His own son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him freely give us all things? Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifies. Who is he that condemns? It is Christ that died, yea, rather, that is risen again, Who is even at the right hand of God, Who also makes intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, for Thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."***

This is a most rich and comforting passage of Scripture in which the inspired apostle Paul states so clearly and powerfully the comfort and security with belonging to Jesus Christ, the one and only Saviour of sinners. Belonging to Him means knowing Him and trusting Him and following Him as your only Saviour and Lord. That truly nothing can compare to belonging to the Lord Jesus and living in daily faith and repentance and devotion before Him, let us think about the various questions given in this passage, and hear this gospel message and learn what the essence of the joy of the Christian life is.

Paul begins this climax of Christian gospel truth with the question, ***"If God be for us, who can be against us?"*** Paul asks this in the context of just having explained how, left to ourselves, all of us can only expect God to be most certainly and justly against us. Why? In holy and just anger for all our sins and sinfulness! God made this world sinless and good in the beginning, but our first parents, Adam and Eve, sinned as Genesis 3 relates, and through them the whole human race has become hopelessly corrupted and guilty and blind in sin and evil. But the gospel is, God so loved this world that He sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, to seek and to save sinners. Jesus came to this earth, being truly God and truly man in

one Person, and what did He do as God-sent and God-equipped Saviour? He, in the sinner's place, lived the perfect life God justly demands from us, and then at the same time, He died the terrible cursed death and suffered the full and just punishment for sin that we sinners deserve, left to ourselves! The cross of Jesus is all about His enduring the righteous wrath of God upon sin as Substitute for sinners like you and me.

The Apostle having told all about this Jesus too in the preceding chapters of Romans, now asks this climactic question, **If God is for us**, as He has proven to be in and through the Person and work of Jesus, the once crucified and then resurrected and now ever living Savior, **who can now be against us?** And the implied answer of Paul's questions is that no one and nothing can be against us ultimately with Jesus' perfect saving work on behalf of sinners....and through Him, trusting and following Him, all is well for His people, both in life and death and that for body and soul and for now and forever! Indeed, that is the gospel message!

If, as Paul and all the Bible teaches us, God is for us and can be for us only always in and through the Lord Jesus Christ, the long promised and most wonderful ever living Saviour of sinners, how important and urgent that you also belong to Christ in true faith, confessing and turning from sin and following after Him. Is that how you are presently living? Are you belonging to Christ? Are you following Him, trusting Him, and obeying Him as He is made known to us in the Holy Bible? Could it be that is not true of you, dear friend? Maybe you were raised with the gospel of Jesus Christ but you have turned your back on it, or if you are honest, you are only paying some lip service to it, but not living by it? You have too many other things going, you say. If that is the case and you are living unrelated to Christ, generally ignoring and rejecting Him, then you must realize God is not for you and can't be for you and won't be for you! Outside of Christ and personal union and communion with Him, you are an enemy of God and still under God's condemnation and eternal judgment left to yourself. How is it stated in John 3:36? There we read, **He that believes on the Son has everlasting life, and he that believes not the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides [remains] on him.** That is saying it like it is. Do you have ears to hear this gospel, also the earnest warning part of it?

But let me go to the next question in this passage in Romans 8 in the last verses. That God can be for us only always and alone through Jesus Christ comes through in this next question in the next verse, but also, how God is infinitely much for us through Jesus Christ the Saviour! This next question reads, **"He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?"** This grand question is asked in a way that you need to know the answer is that God will give us all things we need for fullness of life here and now and eternal life hereafter through Jesus the Saviour. Paul says in

Philippians 4:19, **My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.**

The Lord Jesus in His saving work on behalf of sinners left the glories and riches of heaven and came to this earth all the time suffering for sin but, says Paul, it was so that we through His poverty might be made rich, yes, endlessly rich, finding with Jesus total forgiveness of all our sins, everlasting righteousness to our account for Christ's sake, and the gift of eternal life in endless glory to come! With God the Father, having given His only begotten Son to suffer and die for His people, there is no other need of ours that He can't and won't supply! This is the gospel truth, explaining why God's true people, as many as trust and obey Him, can and may also be so content and feel so secure! God's blessings in Christ Jesus for this life, and with death even, are without number and His blessings for the life to come are inexpressible. Paul says in Romans 6:23, **For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord!** Whoever you are, whatever your past, and however you may still struggle in different ways, yet coming to Jesus the Saviour and leaving all to Him, you are safe and sound with Him. And surely the call and plea is that no one stay away from Him but let all come to Him, while He still offers peace and pardon.

To see yet the complete salvation you find with God as revealed in Christ Jesus, listen to the next two questions Paul gives. He asks in verse 33, **Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect?** [even as many as turn from sin and believe on Him, that is.] **It is God that justifies**, which means clears and declares righteous a person for Christ's sake, and so goes on Paul, **Who is he that condemns? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, Who is even at the right hand of God, Who also makes intercession for us.** Do you hear it, this rich gospel? Look what a perfect, complete, endlessly caring, and almighty, and most highly exalted, and honoured Savior Jesus Christ is! He is fully qualified and He is ever alive and caring as Saviour, and you can count on Him always, whatever your needs, whatever your sins, your sorrows, your troubles, your joys. With Him you have a listening ear and always He is most ready and able to help us as He knows is best for us.

So in and through Christ the Saviour, we are all invited to know God and enjoy Him, here already in part, and hereafter in eternal fullness! Happy are you, when by the grace of God you are following Jesus sincerely and increasingly and steadfastly and faithfully in line with His Word. Paul realized so much gospel riches in and through Jesus Christ, the Saviour of sinners, and being joined to Him by a true faith worked by the Holy Spirit. The gospel message is, trusting Jesus you may know that Jesus endured the hell you deserve and He gives to you instead to have and enjoy fullness of life here and now, and then everlasting life hereafter.