

Romans 8:31-39

“God Is For Us”

“God is for us,” that’s the principle that Paul has just overwhelmingly developed. As we fall into the flow of this latter portion of Ch 8, realize that he’s just unleashed *upon* us, unloaded *before* us, blasted with both barrels (if you will) this barrage of overwhelming information with regards to both our salvation and our preservation. The Divine chain forged in eternity past that can not be broken. That God having foreknown you, *predestined* you to be conformed into the image of His Son, that is to make you like Jesus. That’s God’s ultimate aim for your life as a child of God, that the character of Christ become your character, the love with which He loves, the grace with which He forgives, the servants heart He has, the holiness of His heart and life, that all of these things and so much more as is found in Christ become a practical and powerful working reality in your life, in my life.

Having begun that work, He’s going to be faithful to complete it, and that’s the ultimate end of every individual detail that enters into the equation of your life. God is using those things in the big picture (be they times that are good or bad, soothing or suffering, poverty stricken or prosperous, life, death and all things in between) to conform you into the image of His Son. That’s what we spoke of in Vs 28, we realize that isolated incidents may be tragic, and that not all things *are good*, but that’s not what the bible says, the bible says that all things work *together*, not in isolation, but in the big picture, for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. That doesn’t mean that God causes tragedy to strike our lives, but in His sovereign providence He can *use* those things towards His ultimate aim for our lives, to make us like Jesus. That is your destiny as a child of God, and having predestined you God called you, having called you He justified you and having justified you He glorified you. It’s a done deal, it’s only yet to be revealed *in* you that which God has done *for* you. But you get the idea, what do those things communicate? If God has foreknown you, predestined you, called you, justified and glorified you, if He causes everything that enters into the equation of your life to work towards your eternal good and His eternal glory, conforming you into the image of His Son, what’s the overwhelming signal that that sends out to you? That God is for you, that’s the principle at hand.

Now in this remaining portion of Ch 8 he takes this principle, and makes it practical, how exactly it is that God is for us? Oh we know that He’s predestined us, called us, justified and glorified us, but wait there’s more! and So Paul spends the remaining portion of this chapter expounding/explaining and expanding on that fact, notice Vs 31.

Vs31

You know, knowing who we are, where we've been and what we've done, even though we read of the radical things that God has done on our behalf, calling us from eternity past and all the rest. In the frailty of our human frame it can be difficult for us to receive, but I want you to underline those four words right there in the middle of this Vs, "God is for us." If you're a believer here this morning, take it in and be encouraged by it, God is *for you*. and It seems that because we're so easily duped into thinking otherwise God re-emphasizes this truth over and over again throughout the scriptures. "*For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.*" Jer 29:11 The Psalmist reminds us, "*Many, O LORD my God, are Your wonderful works Which You have done; And Your thoughts toward us Cannot be recounted to You in order; If I would declare and speak of them, They are more than can be numbered.*" Ps 40:5

Over and over again throughout the scriptures the declaration of the goodness of God's heart towards us is made. God wants us to know that *in Christ* He is for us and *not* against us. It doesn't matter where you were last night, or what you did last week God is for you. Now that doesn't mean that He approves of sin in your life, and if you're blowing life you need to repent because grace reigns in righteousness, teaches us to *deny* ungodliness, but the fact is that though you may turn your back on God, in Christ God's not going to turn His back on you, He's for you. Remember the parable that Jesus taught about the man having 100 sheep and one of them going astray? He didn't say, "Well, 99 still pretty good so let's forget about that one." He went after the 1, and rejoiced more over it when it was returned to the fold than the 99 who never strayed, and He said, "*Even so it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.*" Matt 18:14

God is *for you*, and refuses to give up *on you*. You need to be assured of that, it's like the opening Vs in Ps 73, "*Truly God is good,*" Ps 73:1 Truths like these need to be the filter through which we strain every event that enters into the equation of our lives, the lens through which we view our various circumstances and all. Because if we lose sight of that it's easy to get derailed, as you read through that psalm you realize that he'd almost slipped, he was confused, couldn't figure out why things were going south in *his* life but the *wicked* seemed to prosper. Ever feel that way? He'd lost the eternal perspective, he'd lost sight of the sovereign and providential hand of God in the given situation. But if you refuse to lose sight of the fact that God is good, that He is *for you*, and that He's working all the things that come into play in your life together for your good and His glory, even though it may be a tragic situation in and of itself, or unfair according to our understanding, then you'll endure. Because I may not *get* it, or be able to see how there's any redemptive quality *about* it whatsoever, but I know God is good, and I know He's for me, and *knowing* that, truly *believing* that will serve to sustain you, and build on the foundation that undergirds/upholds you.

Now if you stopped reading the book of Romans after about the middle of Ch 3, you might be led to believe that God *was against* you. But when those things are laid up against all that God has done for you in the person of Jesus Christ all they do is serve to reinforce how truly for us God is. Because “This” is who we are (from about 18 of Ch 1 through about Vs 20 of Ch 3) and knowing who we are, we understand what we deserve, eternal separation from God in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone day and night throughout all eternity. But God has loved us with an everlasting love. and Having done all that He’s done for us in Christ when we were *outside* of Christ, in rebellion *towards* and being enmity *against* Christ, how much more is He going to do for you now that you’re *in* Christ, seeking to live *for* Christ, and walk in harmony *with* Christ?

Which sorta dips into the next Vs but before we go there let’s consider the question, God being for you, who can be against you? Well, all kinds of people might be against you, the world is against you, Satan himself is against you along with all the cohorts of hell that he has. But here’s the deal, everything mentioned above is creation, but the *Creator* is for you, all of those things are *in* or *of* the world. But the bible says, “...*He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.*” 1 John 4:4 Sometimes people mistakenly think of Satan as the equal opposite of God, huge mistake, Satan may be equal to Gabriel, or perhaps Michael, other created angels of that sort, but that’s the key, he’s a created being, limited in power, presence and perception. He doesn’t know all things, isn’t all powerful, and can’t be all places at all times, however God functions in all 3. He’s all knowing, all places, and all powerful, no limits whatsoever in any arena. So the idea here is, “Who of any *eternal relevance* can be against us?” The answer is no one, or no thing.

Now quickly before we move on, notice here in the question the word “if.” Now we know that that word could’ve just as easily been translated, “Since,” or “Because,” but I like the fact that the translators chose the word “If,” and here’s why. *In* Christ God is *for* you, but *outside* of Christ the bible is clear that the wrath of God abides *on* you. Oh He *loves* you immeasurably, but His grace is only available *to* you in Christ, Christ is the “safety zone” in which God’s wrath is subsided and His grace pours forth unrelentingly.

But here’s the deal, there are lots of people that *think* God is for them, but they’re deceived. In the world we live in today with global terrorism becoming unfortunately a more and more common place occurrence, these people who strap bombs to themselves and blow themselves up; they do so *thinking* that God is for them. They’re deceived, various cults, and “isms” who deny the deity of Christ, or think that they’re on they’re way to godhood themselves, *think* that they do what they do, God being for them, they’re deceived. Therefore there are relevant things working *against them* to their eternal detriment, but *if* God is for you, meaning you abide in Christ and Christ abides in you, *then* who can be against you? No one, no outside force can work to your eternal detriment, you and God make an unconquerable majority. He’s going to equip you, and give *to* you everything you need to ensure that His plan and His purpose *for* you is worked out *through* you.

Vs32

Again underline and memorize this Vs, Paul is demonstrating one way (the ultimate way) through which the Father displayed the fact that He is for us. and The argument goes from the greater, to the lesser, or to understand that another way, God has given us the greatest gift that could possibly be given us in the person of His Son. There's no greater thing that God could've done for you and me, we were headed for an eternity in hell and rightfully so, but God divinely intervened in the person of Jesus Christ taking upon Himself the sin of the world, Him becoming sin for us that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.

God didn't spare His Son, but delivered Him up, and if you have children this goes beyond your ability to comprehend, willfully allowing their life to be sacrificed for the sake of those who are for all intents and purposes your enemies. and The picture here is pointing to Gen 22 when Ab was instructed to take his son, his *only* son Isaac and sacrifice him to God there on Mt Moriah. and You recall that Ab lifted up the knife and was just about to strike when the Angel of the Lord stopped him and God said to him, "Don't lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him, now I know that you fear God since you haven't withheld your son, your *only* son, from Me." God *spared* Abraham's son, who was acting as a picture of the Father who *wouldn't* spare *His* only Son but would allow Him to be delivered up for us all.

Here's the idea, is there anything greater that God could've done for us? Perhaps there are *other* things that God could've done for us, but certainly no *greater* thing that He could've done for us. So if He's already given you the *greatest* thing what makes you think that He'll now withhold from you lesser things that you may need to get you to the place He wants you to be, (personally, practically, eternally)? It's like buying an airline ticket to Europe and then being surprised that they throw in some microwave chicken, or salted cheez-its along the way. You've already secured the greater, the lesser isn't a problem, the Father has given us the greater (Christ) now some microwave chicken (by comparison) along the way to get you to your destination isn't a problem, what do you need? Would you like another spiritual V-8 or orange juice or something, than just ask? He'll give it to you freely, liberally.

He'll make sure that you're well equipped to arrive to His desired destination for your life, the image (or the likeness) of His Son. Remember Jesus said, "*...what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!*" Matt 7:9-11

Vs33-34

The thought here behind these Vs really just further underscoring our initial consideration of Vs 31, “If God is for us who can be against us?” Here, “If God has justified us, than who can bring accusation against us?” and In Vs 34 “If Christ died for us, than who can bring condemnation upon us?” These are all rhetorical questions, the answer obviously implied in the form of the question, the answer is no one, no one, no one! Sure men might accuse you, you might accuse yourself, we know that Satan is the accuser of the brethren, night and day accusing them before the throne of God (Rev 12:10). But again when the Highest court and the judge of all the earth has declared you justified, Christ having taken your sentence upon Himself, the accusations are throne out of court. It’s already been dealt with, the penalty’s been paid for, and Heaven holds to the law of double jeopardy, you can’t be tried for the same crime twice, and all your sin, past, present and future has been placed on trial, found guilty before God and sentenced and paid for in the person of Jesus Christ So now when your sin gets placed before the throne via the accuser of the brethren, its thrown out of court, its already been tried once, can’t be tried a 2nd time.

The only One who could rightfully condemn us (Jesus Christ) is the One who’s died *for* us, and presently making intercession on behalf *of* us. and It just doesn’t follow suit that He’d set aside the benefits of His deity to become a Man, live a servants life, die the most excruciating form of capital punishment ever devised of man, ascend to the right hand of the Father (cloaked for eternity now in His humanity,) fully God fully man (though He’s resumed every benefit of His deity,) interceded perpetually for His own to just one day go, “You know what, I change My mind.” Then He wouldn’t be true, or righteous, or faithful, He’d be found a liar, but God is not a man that He should lie. As it is written let God be true, but every man a liar, what’s my point? Rom 8:1, “There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus.” The Godhead in full is for you, in Vs 26 we read of how the Spirit is for you, in Vs 31 of how God the Father is for you, and here in Vs 34 how that Christ is for you, interceding on behalf of you. (Of course we read of His intercession in Heb 7:25 as well)

Vs35-37

Who can be against us? Who can accuse us? Who can condemn us? and Who can separate us from the love of God...It can’t happen, because as sure as God is for you, can never be absent from you, never leave nor forsake you, so to with His love, God is love. Translation, God can’t not love you, “*The LORD has appeared of old to me, saying: ‘Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you.’*” Jer 31:3 The goodness of God leads us to repentance, and nothing can separate us from His love.

Back in Vs 35 Paul starts throwing out variables, potential realities (all of which he'd been through) tribulation, or pressures, crushing type stresses, persecution, famine or nakedness, both of those things really pointing to extreme poverty, not being able to afford a meal, or adequate clothing, peril (speaking of dangers or extreme fear), or sword (speaking of execution or martyrdom) Paul hadn't seen that one yet but he would. Then he quotes from Ps 44 in regards to spending and being spent for the Kingdom of God, like sheep to the slaughter. He spent time strengthening the souls of the disciples there in Acts 14 in Lystra, Iconium and Antioch saying, "*We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.*" Acts 14:22

Vs37

You're not fighting *for* victory, you're fighting *from* victory, and you overcome with a greater power, the power of Jesus Christ with a greater motive, not your own glory but that of Christ, and with a greater love, the love of God, not being overcome by evil but overcoming evil with good. We're *more* than conquerors, through *Him*, that is Christ, who loved us.

Vs38-39

The key in these Vs is found in this phrase, "...*any other created thing.*" If it's been created it can't separate you from the love of God, and that my friends is everything period minus One which is God Himself, God is the Creator, *everything else* has been created. Translation, there is *nothing* that can separate you from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus. Death, it's lost its sting, for the believe death becomes the vehicle that actually ushers us into God's personal practical presence, no separation there. Life, well it has it's problems, the fight is over at death, during life we're faced with all these other problems, but still it lacks the power to separate you from God's love. You may struggle, or stumble, but God's going to continue to love you, angels, principalities (the demonic), powers, (could be various rankings of angels or even human governments), things in the now, things to come in the future, time or space, height nor depth, and just in case he missed something he caps it all off with this phrase, "...nor anything created thing," shall be able to separate you from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Sounds all inclusive to me, and it's the heart of God towards you, He's for you, leave Rom Ch 8, we'll close in Psalm 139:1-18 (read)

God *is* for you, we couldn't even count His precious thoughts towards us, but *He* knows the thoughts He thinks towards us, thoughts of peace and not evil, to give us a future and a hope. Romans Ch 8 is an incredible chapter of the Word of God. It begins with no condemnation, ends with no separation, and it between...it's all good.

Prayer Points: God Thank You for the radical insight and understanding of your heart that You've given to us in Your Word. You've gone to the greatest extreme possible to ensure us of the fact that You are for us in Christ. God increase our faith, thank You for the confidence we can have in You knowing that nothing can separate us from Your love, and that having loved Your own, You'll love us to the end. and We look forward to the day that we're perfected in Your image and are able to enjoy the tangible reality of basking in Your presence, the presence of Your love forevermore.

Perhaps you don't know the Lord, have never given your heart *to* the Lord, listen God has loved you immeasurably, and wants to pour out His grace upon you personally. But the gift of His grace resides in Christ, who was wounded for our transgressions, bruised for our iniquities, the chastisement for our peace was laid upon Him and by His stripes we are healed. If you need healing in your life today, the forgiveness of sin, you want to be made right with God and certain of the fact that should your soul be required of you this day you'd go to Heaven, than open your heart and invite Christ in now. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved.