## Romans 6... 7...8

Devotional Studies from the Men's Morning Fellowship

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

Romans 8:32 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 8:33 Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.

Romans 8:34 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.

Love is the focus of the concluding verses of chapter eight. You read, Who shall separate us from the <u>love</u> of Christ?... Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who <u>loved</u> us... The chapter ends with the love of God which is in Christ Jesus.

Romans 8:31 What then shall we say to these things?...

In other words, What conclusions can we draw?

Romans 8:31 ... If God is for us...

The gift of God's Son in saving us and the gift of God the Holy Spirit indwelling us are enough to conclude God is for us. Add to that what Ephesians calls all spiritual blessings in heavenly places.

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Romans 8:31 ... who can be against us?

Well, *lots of people are!* The devil and his demons are against us. Sinners are against us.

Things are also against us – like the world and the flesh.

But all of those only work together for our good. They cannot ultimately triumph. They are, at best, a light affliction that last but a moment when compared to eternity. Adverse circumstances, afflictions, and times of being abased can challenge the love of God. Thinking through theology by reading and studying sections of Scripture like Romans six, seven, and eight renew your understanding that God is only always for you.

Romans 8:32 He who did not spare His own Son...

We ought to remind ourselves often that the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ was necessary if mankind was to be saved.

Romans 8:32 ... but delivered Him up...

It is the highest and greatest proof of the Father's love for us that He allowed Jesus to die. Delivered Him up is a summary of all that the cruelty of man did to Jesus especially in His final hours.

Acts 2:23 Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death;

Yes, it was the plan from before the foundation of the earth. But it lessens none of the cruelty, none of the horror.

Romans 8:32 ... for us all...

The us are the whole human race but especially those who believe. If you are a Christian you are assured that God loved and loves you personally and demonstrated it by delivering Jesus to die in your place as your substitute.

Romans 8:32 ... how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

Since God gave us freely and by grace the greatest thing then we can believe He will freely give us all lesser things. These all things though are determined by Him according to what is best in conforming us to the image of Jesus. They are anything and everything needed for our spiritual welfare.

Romans 8:33 Who shall bring a charge against God's elect?

I cannot help but think of Job because his situation perfectly illustrates someone bringing a charge against God's elect. In his

case Satan did bring a charge. He will do the same against us. Or, if not Satan in Heaven then some sinner on the earth. Romans 8:33 ... *It is* God who justifies.

Our defense is that God has already justified us. He sees us just-asif-we'd never sinned.

I'm told by the language scholars that this phrase can also be read as a question. Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect? Shall God who justifies? Read that way you are reminded that God no longer looks upon you with any condemnation.

Romans 8:34 Who is he who condemns?...

Though we may feel condemned by our failures we need not listen to any enemy who seeks to condemn us. The only person who could condemn us is Jesus and He won't!

Romans 8:34 ... It is Christ who died...

Again this can be read as a question: Shall Christ who has died, condemn them? The argument here is, that as Christ died to save you, and not to destroy you, He will not condemn you. His death for you is a security that He will not condemn you.

The resurrection is the proof Jesus is the One with the authority to condemn.

Romans 8:34 ... who is even at the right hand of God...

When Jesus ascended from earth to heaven accompanied by angels, of which His disciples were witnesses, He led captivity captive, or triumphed over those that led his people captive. Sin, Satan, the law, death, and every other enemy of ours was defeated. Jesus entered into heaven to prepare it for us. He appears in the presence of God for us, and, since He is at the right hand of God, as an advocate it will be to no purpose, and of no avail, that Satan, or any other enemy, to accuse us.

Jesus is more than our advocate, more than our defense attorney in a heavenly courtroom drama. He is our friend and God's Son and as such we read,

Romans 8:34 ... who also makes intercession for us.

I quote from John Gill's Exposition of the Entire Bible:

[Jesus makes intercession], not by vocal prayer, as in the days of his flesh on earth; or as supplicating an angry judge; or as controverting: a point in the court of heaven; but by the appearance of his person for us, by the presentation of his sacrifice, by offering up the prayers and praises of his people, by declaring it as his will, that such and such blessings be bestowed upon them, and by seeing to it, that the benefits of his death are applied to those, for whom they were designed; which intercession of Christ proceeds upon the foot of a satisfaction made; it always continues, and is ever prevalent, and so has a considerable influence to secure from condemnation. The apostle, in this verse, seems to have in view a passage in Job 34:29 which the Septuagint render, "and he gives peace, and who is he that condemneth?"

If the Lord Jesus, to whom all judgment has been committed, does not pass sentence on us but rather prays for us, then there is no one else who could have a valid reason for condemning us.

This is the fourth proof we are secure in God's love. He died for us; He rose from the dead; He is at God's right hand; and intercedes for us.

By all these, Paul argues our complete security from being subject to condemnation by Him who shall pronounce the doom of all mankind, and therefore our complete safety in the day of judgment.