

Eternal Security
Romans 8:28-37
Berean Baptist Church
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INTRODUCTION

Anxiety stinks; it hurts us emotionally (and physically), hinders our spiritual growth, and robs us of the joy that we were made for.

But it flourishes among Christians. Fear about the world is bad, but some Christians suffer the worst anxiety: the fear that God will stop loving them. This fear is so powerful that vast cults have been built on it - false religions that teach people to keep God's love by their good works.

Christian, anxiety is not God's will for your life. God has already done the work to deliver you from anxiety, see from this passage how to live in peace; see from this passage how you must...

Live as an eternally secure son of God!

This must start with the adoption as a son of God. *Receive Jesus and believe on His name!* “But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name (John 1:12).” Without Jesus you have every reason to be anxious.

Romans 8:28-30 Eternal Security

Vs 28-29 “them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.” These are the Sons of God, those who have been adopted by faith in Jesus.

And for them, all things work to their good. Every circumstance in life, every event in nature, every action, whether evil or benevolent, works to help the children of God grow into the full maturity of His image. This means that every hardship we face in life is not just something that we must wait out, rather is something actively working to our good.

Vs 29 Our good is the completion of the perfect image of Jesus in us. When Christ is formed in us we will be sinless, mighty and holy (1 John ch 3, Rev ch 5). We will still retain our own identity (Rev 2:17) and memories (Rev 1:5, 6:10). But we will exchange this sickening body of death for a glorious body of life (1 Cor ch 15), and all of our sadness will be consoled (Rev 21:4).

Jesus is the Firstborn, the head of our family, and we are among the many brothers and sisters. We are called to be citizens of “the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect (Heb 12:22-23).”

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved into the holy community, the immortal assembly of the family of God!

Vs 29-30 “For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate...” We can be sure of our salvation because it does not depend on us in any way. Our salvation is all of God; from the beginning to middle, to end; He is all in all.

Vs 29-30 This is the order of God's work presented in this passage. There is honest disagreement between good Christians about how we should understand the order of these events according to the

overall teaching of the Bible. But that debate is not relevant to the point of this passage.

Vs 29 “Foreknown” God certainly knows who will trust Him as He has known all things forever. But this statement means much more than just a bare list of God's chosen people. In the Bible to “know” a person is not just to know their name, but to have a deep, personal relationship with them.

Scripture uses the same language to speak of the Father's relationship with Jesus (1 Pet 1:20), of His relationship with Israel (Rom 11:2), and of humans having a long relationship with each other (Acts 26:5).

God said to His prophet Jeremiah “Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee...and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations (Jer. 1)”

And Jesus will say to those that He sends to hell “And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity (Matt 7:23).”

Trust Jesus because God has known you better than anyone from the beginning of time!

Vs 29-30 “Predestined” This is to decide on something beforehand. Christian, God has decided that you will become like Jesus – glorious and victorious, full of grace and truth. The Image of God will be restored in all who trust Him – the power of God Almighty will accomplish this.

Why leave your future open to death and corruption, trust Jesus so that you can have the sure destiny of glory!

Christian, rejoice to know that your final victory over sin and death has been spoken by God; IT WILL BE DONE! And be thankful for your conversion!

Inevitably, some wonder and worry about their status - "Am I one of the predestined?" The answer to this is that God's knowledge and power do not conflict with His simple promises.

“Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this (John 11:25-26)?” If you simply trust Jesus as Lord and Savior, He will give you eternal life.

Vs 30 “Called” God's calling is the preaching of the Gospel together with the inner working of His Spirit. A sincere response of faith in Jesus is the result of the call and evidence of our destined glory. The Bible teaches that Christians are called to freedom, hope and holiness (Gal 5:13, Eph 4:4, 1 Thess 4:7).

God has “saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel (2 Tim 1:9-10).

Christian, when you are tempted or intimidated by the World, know that God has a call on your life; a call to freedom, hope, and holiness (Gal 5:13, Eph 4:4, 1 Thess 4:7). Turn down the noise of the world and follow your calling!

Vs 30 “Justified” Justification has been the great theme of Romans. God justifies a sinner by declaring them forgiven and righteous by His grace through faith in Jesus (Rom 3:24, 3:26, 3:28, 3:30, 4:2 etc). "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ (Rom 5:1)."

If you believe on Jesus, then when God sees your sins which earns you death, He transfers your guilt to Jesus who has volunteered to die for you. He also gives you the righteousness which Jesus has earned for you.

Vs 30 “Glorified” this is the end of the journey and the beginning of the fullness of life. It has not happened yet, and Paul knows it hasn't happened yet; in Romans 8:18 Paul speaks of “ the glory which shall be revealed in us.” But he speaks about the Christian's glorification as though it has already happened.

Vs 30 “whom he justified, them he also glorified.” All who have been justified by God will be glorified. God is so firm on this that He speaks about our future glorification as though it has already happened. Old Testaments prophets frequently speak like this (Isa ch 5, Amos Ch 5, Jer ch 23) and even Jude in the New Testament speaks of God's return as though it has already happened; Jude wrote “the Lord cometh” in Vs 14 using the same “past” tense that Paul uses for “glorified” in Rom 8:30.

Christian, be encouraged knowing that from God's perspective your salvation is so secure that it has already been finished!

The world, the flesh (our old, dying sin nature), and the Devil work against us. But everything they do only blesses us in the long run. They are utterly frustrated and unable to finally hurt us because every trouble they bring us only brings us to God. As Paul says...

“We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body. For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh (2 Cor 4:8-11).”

With God we have everything, without God we have nothing. How then should we live?

Romans 8:31-32 Eternally Secure Against Need

Vs 31 “What shall we then say to these things?” The idea is “what does all of this mean” Or, “So what?” And this is the great question of the Christian life. How should we live in light of the grace of God?

Vs 32“ He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all,...” God made all things and all humans. But none of those things could save us. The whole universe and everyone in it cannot save one soul. For, the price for our salvation must be sinless and strong enough to bear the entire weight of sin. There was only ever one option: “Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world (John 1:29).”

The only thing that God did not make, Himself, is what He had to lay on the altar to redeem His fallen creatures. And God paid the price.

Tremble in awe of the price of love that God paid to save you! And not just you...

Vs 32 He “**delivered him up for us all**” that means you, the people that you love, and the people that you don't like. When you are tempted to be stingy or uncharitable to your brother or sister, remember that God, the God that you hope for charity from every day, gave His own Son for them as well.

Our eternal security flows from God's faithful generosity. In order to know God's generosity and your security better, be faithfully generous yourself!

Vs 32 “**how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?**” Would God give a greater thing and- withhold a lesser thing? He has paid such a price to forgive your sins, we are sure that he will give you whatever else you need to return safely to Him.

In light of your security, love each other and come to God for what you need trusting the love that He has already proven!

“If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him? (Matt 7:11)”

Romans 8:33-34 Eternal Security Against Condemnation

We are secure against every need, but sometimes the feelings of guilt rob us of the joy that we should have. When the Spirit convicts us of sin, the healthy response is to confess and ask forgiveness. But if the issue is not addressed, conviction turns to lingering guilt. And guilt, like bitterness, festers and weakens your walk with God.

Sometimes we don't seek forgiveness because we feel like God has to be sick of us, and we just live under a shadow of guilt that cuts us off from the blessings that God wants us to have. And some even lose all hope of life under the shadow of guilt.

Vs 33 The Word of God to the accuser is: “**It is God that justifieth.**” Justification has been the great theme of Romans. God justifies a sinner declaring them forgiven and righteous before God freely by His grace though faith in Jesus (Rom 3:24, 3:26, 3:28, 3:30, 4:2 etc). “Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ (Rom 5:1).”

The original language says this in a very strong way emphasizing God and putting no limit to when he justifies the believer. There is almost no end to the true accusations that make us worthy of hell. But our God silences all accusations with a simple and powerful phrase: God justifies!

And notice that it does not say God has, or God will, “justify”. But simply “God justifies” so this is an ongoing reality. God is continually making you righteous in His sight.

Christian train yourself in God's grace and truth! When you find yourself under the shadow of lingering guilt, deal with the issue if you have not, and then say to yourself: “God declares me innocent!”

Vs 34 Even as the Holy Spirit speaks for us, Jesus also intercedes for us. There have been many priests and all have died, but only one has come back to life to continue his ministry. Jesus “...is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them (Heb 7:25).”

In light of your security, do your best to be righteous and live free from guilt when you fail! Jesus

declares you innocent at every moment of your life with Him!

If you have not trusted Jesus, I ask you: who pleads your case? When you meet your maker to be judged, who will stand with you if not Jesus? If you know that you are condemned by God, believe on Jesus because He saves from judgment!

Romans 8:35-37 Eternally Secure Against Opposition

The world may constantly provoke, tempt, and curse us. But our response must be full of truth, peace, and love. How can we find the courage to confront lies with truth, hatred with love, vanity with wisdom? By resting in the security of the love of Christ.

Vs 35 No evil can separate a Christian from God's love. In fact, the loss of earthly comfort and safety only brings us close to our Savior who himself is well antiquated with grief. And at the end of all sorrow, the very destruction of our body only brings us into the presence of God.

Vs 36 “**As it is written...**” Our persecution is not a new trend. Paul quotes Psalm 44 to show that the people of God have always been targeted by the World System. When you suffer for Christ, when you are disappointed in the world, know that you are not the first and you are not alone. If you live to be worthy of heaven, the world will not be worthy of you and you will have no lasting place in it.

Vs 37 Our salvation begins with God and ends with God. He who called us before we knew Him makes us victorious through His love. Christian, your victory is as mighty and enduring as the love of God.

In light of your security, stand for truth without bitterness or fear!

CONCLUSION

God has paid the price to make you free from all anxiety, but you must believe in Him and accept His grace. You must ask Jesus to free you from sin and give you life!

“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord (Rom 6:23).”

Once you have life in Jesus, understand that your life is as secure as He is secure; *your glorification is as certain as His second coming!*

When you feel weak and needy, *draw closer to Him in the Word, prayer, and the Church so you can rest in His provision!*

When you feel condemned, *draw closer to Him in confession to Him, forgiveness, and thankfulness so you can rest in His justification*

When you feel defeated, *draw closer to Him in patient endurance and rest in His love that can never be taken from you!*

Live as an eternally secure son of God!