

More Than Conquerors
Romans 8:31-39
Berean Baptist Church
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INTRODUCTION

Romans displays God's awesome saving power. In spite of human darkness (Ch 1-2), He made a way for us to be saved (Ch 3-4). And in spite of human weakness (Ch 5-7), He will finish the work He started in saving all who believe (Ch 8). The victory of God Almighty is comprehensive and decisive. There is no dark corner in the universe where His truth does not reach, and there is no secret work of evil that His sovereignty does not bend to good. And Romans chapter eight teaches that the faithful have a joyful part in God's eternal triumph. "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together (Rom 8:16-17)."

As elsewhere John says "Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world (1 John 4:4)."

So, in light of God's victory, Romans 8:31 opens with a simple question "what shall we say to these things?" This is the question of applied theology – we know these things about God, but what do they mean to us? In one sentence the answer is: "If God be for us, who can be against us (Rom 8:31)?"

Vs 31 Every part of this applied theology, these relevant teachings about God, rests on the first part of Paul's conditional "**If God be for us...**" But, God is not "for" everyone. When John says "little children" in 1 John 4:4, he means children of God, not children of the Devil.

God is against false prophets (Ezk 13:1-8), God is against the enemies of His people (Deut 20:4), and God is against those who rebel against Him (Isa 63:10).

Be with God by receiving the adoption as His child through faith, and obey Him as a dear child! On God's side, you will have victory in Jesus, and be able to...

Rejoice in Jesus' victory, and join Him in triumph by faith!

Romans 8:32 God Is Gracious And So Christians Have Victory Over Every Need.

Vs 32 "He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all..."

God made mankind sufficient to stand and free to fall. He gave our first parents wonderful gifts: life, holiness, and the opportunity to choose to love him freely; to love as He loves. They threw it all away. Even we who are born in a fallen world with corrupted natures are given a clear enough view of God to know when we sin and that we need God.

Ps 145:17 The LORD is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works.

18 The LORD is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth.

19 He will fulfil the desire of them that fear him: he also will hear their cry, and will save them.

20 The LORD preserveth all them that love him: but all the wicked will he destroy.

But, "As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one. (Rom 3:10)." If this were the end of the story, we would go to hell. And if we were honest, we would have to say that God is gracious.

“But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) (Eph 2:4-5).”

And, if this were the end of the story, if believers were saved by faith and given a new lease on life only to forfeit our life to sin once again, we would die in our sins. And if we were honest, we would have to say that God is gracious.

“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life (Ro 5:8-10).”

The grace of God is not just good and joy we don't deserve in the world, it is not just an offer of life and salvation, the grace of God is in the life of His Son. The grace of God is as immortal and enduring as He is. As long as Jesus lives, God has more grace for you.

Vs 32 “how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?” So, we should trust Him to give us all that we need in the world. He has already paid the highest price, what could be too much now.

Christian, understand that God's grace overcomes your needs. Come to God and trust Him to provide for your day to day needs!

And, when He says "no", however much you think He should say "yes," understand that His decision is for your good! When God says "no" to His children it is because He is saying "yes" to something better for them.

That birth, death, and victorious life of Jesus proves that God will give you every good thing if you trust Him!

Romans 8:33 – 34 God Justifies And So Christians Have Victory In The Last Judgment.

Vs 33 “Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect?” The “elect” are all people with saving faith. They are chosen by God from the beginning of time to live forever with Him. So, the question of **Vs 33** is “who will accuse those that God has marked as innocent?”

Really this list is very long! Many accusers, from ignorant people on the internet to ancient and mighty spirits, stand against God's people. But like the woman in John's Gospel who was caught in the very act of adultery, we have come before the only one who's judgment really matters. Who will you listen to?

Christian, learn to see your accusation in the light of Jesus' grace to you; don't free the judgment of man! But, do fear God!

Vs 34 “Who is he that condemneth?...” So we say that God forgives us, that's great but who is He to forgive? The point of this verse is God's triumph over all other judges. Who is God to forgive?

Vs 34 “It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.”

Christian, He paid for your sins by death and overcame them by resurrection, and has been accepted by Heaven to continually make you right with God. In this, He proves that He is worthy to judge, and forgive.

Many people believe on Jesus and have received His forgiveness but still struggle with guilt. Help is found in God's greatness.

Learn that God's grace and power are greater than your guilt! Surround yourself with the things of God, with the people of God, live the life of God and grow in the Gospel until you have a clear vision of the One who forgives you; you will see that He is greater than all who accuse you!

Romans 8:35 – 39 God Is Faithful And So Christians Have Victory Forevermore.

Vs 35 “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?” So as long as we have the love of Christ we are secure. Losing His love is our only real danger and the most disastrous loss imaginable. **“shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?”**

This is not just a poetic list. By this point in his ministry Paul had faced each of these hardships: **tribulation (Gal 6:17), distress (1 Thes 3:7), or persecution (Acts 13:50) or famine(2 Cor 11:27), or nakedness (2 Cor 11:27) , and peril (2 Cor 11:26)** except for “the sword.”

The Bible does not record it, but Paul almost certainly was martyred by decapitation. A Roman citizen would usually be executed by having their head cut off with a sword; so the list was completed.

Vs 35- 36 “As it is written” Paul quotes Psalm 44 to make an important point, the people of God have always faced wicked danger and cruel abuse. So, Paul is not the first to face “ tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword” and he won't be the last.

Vs 37 How can we be sure that one of these evils will not finally overshadow God's love in our life? Because “...we know that all things work together for good to them that love God (Rom 8:28).” hardship in our life does not weaken the love of God it strengthens our place in him, and that is why Paul says **“Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.”**

Vs 38-39 and that is why nothing, absolutely nothing (including yourself) **“...shall be able to separate us from the love of God...”**

Believe on Jesus and be secure in the faithful power of God!

CONCLUSION

The victory is God's and our part in it is by faith alone through grace alone. The object of our faith is not a blind idol or a selfish cult leader, the object of our faith is the One whose love is greater than all the powers of the universe.

So indeed, if God is for us who *can* be against us? Christians have every reason to *enjoy Jesus' victory and join Him in triumph!* But often we don't, so how can we grow in the joy of this triumph?

Most people are fixated on their needs and desires. Our consumer culture trains our hearts to covet, but the fascination with "getting" is nothing new (Matt 6:31-33).

Don't let the world, and especially advertisements, tell you how to think!

Train your mind to face covetousness with thoughts of God's love, His payment, and prayer. Look for God's provision and thank Him when you notice it. Anxiety about stuff (having it or not having it) is your decision – when you are tempted to covet, ask yourself:

Why should I be miserable just because I don't have something that won't satisfy me anyway? Will God not give me everything that is good for me!

And God leads us to victory over all condemnation, but how can we have joy when this victory is drowned out by the noise of the world? Our sins speak to us as if from the grave, inner guilt nags at us, and a world that knows nothing of forgiveness shouts accusations. How can we live and enjoy our forgiveness?

First, be forgiving! “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.”

“Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye (Col 3:13).”

“Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you (Eph 4:31-32).”

You may be technically forgiven, but if you are not forgiving, God's forgiveness will be far from your life. In forgiving others, we allow ourselves to be taught by the grace of God, and that same grace teaches us that we are forgiven.

If you want to experience the power of God's forgiveness day to day, you yourself must forgive!

Second, mature your faith by discipleship! Nagging guilt is a faith issue; your guilt will always look invincible when your view of God is weak. Enjoy the triumph of forgiveness by growing in faith – informed trust in the God who forgives you!

“....giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Pet 5-8).”

And God leads us to victory through His everlasting promises and all-mighty love, but how can we enjoy this love in a world filled with hate?

Set your mind on things above! You will draw yourself to (and eventually become like) the object of your focus. Learn to see every circumstantial and event on earth in perspective. What happens to you is only spiritual raw material, how you build with it or waste it, is what really matters.

“For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal (2 Cor 4:17-18).”

Rejoice in Jesus' victory, and join Him in triumph by faith!