

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Turn your bibles with me to Romans 8

Once again, we are continuing our verse-by-verse study through this amazing life changing letter that the Apostle Paul wrote to the believers in Rome and to us today –

About the fundamentals of Christianity

About the work that God does in our lives

Our salvation – justification – by faith through grace, in Christ alone, our sanctification – as He works in us, through the power of the Holy Spirit, to conform us in to the image of Jesus Christ – He gives us the strength over the power of sin, and our glorification – when we will one day be given our eternal bodies and delivered from the presence of sin.

All of it is the work of God in us.

Ans as we studied last week in verse 29 – 30.

As far as God sees it, it's a done deal.

[Rom 8:30 NKJV] 30 Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

Those He predestined – God promises glorification.

Someone might say –

“Wait a minute, how do I know if I am predestined?”

Easy - Answer God’s calling – right

Those He predestined, He called

“But what if I don’t answer the call?”

Then you were never predestined

It’s not rocket science – God knows all

He knew already the decision you were going to make – nothing surprises Him.

We may not fully understand how His sovereignty and our free will coexist – but He does.

Paul has reminded us over the last two months (as we have pitched out tents on the Spiritual mountaintop of the bible) of a few amazing promises that God has given the believer –

We have learned that God will keep His promises to the believer

But one of the most amazing promise we are going to look at this week and next week is that – for the believer, for who He predestined and who He called and who He justified – and glorified.

There is nothing that we can do to cause God to break His promise to make us like Jesus.

All who begin in Christ – will finish in Christ

Because He is for us and He promises to take care of us.

Let's pray...

[Rom 8:31-32 NKJV] 31 What then shall we say to these things? If God [is] for us, who [can be] against us? 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?

Once upon a time, in a galaxy far, far away, there were three little pigs

You may have heard this story –

I put my own little spin on this one.

The three little pigs built their own houses -

the first built his out of straw

the second out of sticks

and the third out of brick

Big bad wolf comes along to the first pig's house - and he huffed, and he puffed, and he blew that house down and enjoyed himself a nice pork sandwich.

Big bad wolf goes down the street to the 2nd piggy home— house made out of sticks - and he huffed, and he puffed, and he blew that house down and enjoyed himself some chicharones.

Big bad wolf comes to the third house - he huffed, and he puffed, he blew – house still standing.

He tried scratching at the walls of the house – still standing.

The third little pig had complete confidence that no matter what tactic the big bad wolf attempted or how often he came – his house was going to continue to stand.

Question –

What is our house made of?

When the big bad wolf of adversity comes knocking at our door – what stands between us and he?

Straw

Sticks

Or something more solid and secure.

Since verse 18 – here in Romans 8, Paul has told us that the believer, those who love God – that we will suffer.

That as the Holy Spirit is working in us to transform us from the inside out – that God will use our outward circumstances to conform us into the image of Christ.

And just like Job – as we are studying on Wednesday night – during these times of great adversity – during tough times, in the midst of pain and suffering, we may come to the conclusion that God is against us.

It is easy for us during times that are good and everything is happening just the way we like it to conclude that God is for us –

But when a tough time comes our way – when sorrow grips our hearts – we may start to ask, “I wonder if God is for me?”

“Has He forgotten me?”

“Does He know what I am going through?”

“Does He realize the pain that I am feeling?”

And we may even cry out like Job – God where are you?

Let's look at verse 31 again.

Just like Romans 8:28 – we are going to do it together –

Will split it up into three parts –

So repeat after me -

What then shall we say to these things?

If God is for us,

who can be against us?

That first part of verse 31 –

What then shall we say to these things –

We need to ask ourselves – what is Paul referring to here.

What are the things.

Some may conclude that Paul is referring to the totality of his letter –

Some may conclude that Paul is specifically writing concerning the promises of Ch 8

But I believe, Paul is referring to the “all things” of Romans 8:28.

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God

Knowing that in God’s all-powerful, all-wise, and all-loving hand everything is going to

work out to be a part of making us more like Jesus –

What should our conclusion be ---- but confidence and peace?

You see church, what Paul is doing here at the beginning of verse 31 – he is making an appeal to simple logic and reason.

Paul doesn't say –

“Don't think about it; don't try to figure it out, just trust me when I say this.”

No – he urges you and me to use our powers of logic and draw a conclusion based on solid reason.

God invites us to think hard, to use our minds in investigating Truth, because He knows an honest inquiry leads to Him.

We don't check our brains at the door –

Now, regarding the second part – if God is for us –

I had you underline the word if – because this is where some people get tripped up.

If God is for us – then that means that God can be against us.

The doubter who says – what if God is not for us?

The if is not part of the question that Paul wants us to use logic.

A better translation would be the word “since” or “because”

Remember – one of the amazing promises that we have as a believer – that is found in
CH 8 – (verse 1)

There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus,

There is no passing of sentence from God to the believer – Because of the work of
Jesus Christ upon the cross.

We have been cleansed, rescued, delivered, changed and purged of our sins – past,
present and future.

We received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.”

Daddy!

He is a Father that loves us

A Father that cares for us

A Father who disciplines us and is tender and compassionate with us.

One who is always looking out for His children.

One who foreknew us from the beginning – including all of our failures.

Apart from Jesus Christ, we have declared war against God

Apart from Jesus Christ, we are lost

Apart from Jesus Christ, we are under condemnation

We fight against the conviction of the Holy Spirit and harden our hearts just a little bit more.

But for the believer – for those who are in Christ - We have peace with God

We are no longer at war with God.

For the believer - Since God is for us – He is not against us

In what way is He for us?

He has made a plan

He has made a provision –

He has provided a Savior

He sent the Holy Spirit to live inside of us.

The spirit filled believer doesn't have to worry – whether or not God is on his or her side.

Ask yourself this question – am I in Christ? If the answer is yes, God is for you.

Am I saved by grace through faith? Yes – then God is for you

The believer can write his or her name in verse 31 – If God is for me, who can be against us?

Paul wants us to do the math –

Look back to verse 26 - **[Rom 8:26 NKJV] 26 Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.**

So in verse 26 – the Spirit is for us

Here in verse 31, the Father is for us

Guess what – in our study next week in verse 34, you want to take a guess who also is for us? Jesus

The Father is for us, The Holy Spirit is for us, Jesus is for us – who can be against us?

Paul just wants to give us a new perspective on our new life in Christ.

Now –

The enemy will whisper in our ears – God is not for you.

God can't help you

God is mad at you

And if we don't have a solid foundation of biblical truth, we are not living in the victory that is ours in Christ.

Someone might say –

I feel that everything and everyone is against me.

My spouse left me.

My children hate me.

I lost my job.

My health is falling apart.

Listen brother, listen sister – since God is for us, who can be against us?

Now, I want to make sure that we understand that Paul is **not** saying the following –

Since God is for us, nothing can be against us.

Paul is not saying that –

He's is also not saying that because God is for us, life is going to be a walk in the park – void of any difficulties.

That is not what Paul is saying

And we understand this - because there are plenty of things that can be against us

We live in a broken world.

There's sin and death and persecution and trials of all kinds.

[Jhn 15:20 NKJV] 20 "Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also.

As believers – we are in the midst of a spiritual battle.

It is a battle that we stepped into by faith in Jesus Christ.

So Satan and his demons are against us -

Paul reminds us of this battle in Ephesians 6

We have an enemy that is spiritual in nature.

But what happens sometimes is that we forget this and instead we see our neighbors as our enemy or the people that may annoy us as our enemy or the people that have wronged us as our enemy.

[Eph 6:10-13 NKJV] 10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

(Be strong in the Lord – not in our own strength or our own understanding – in the Lord - this is the only place we will find strength, this is the only place we will find help)

We don't lean on the things of the flesh when we are fighting a spiritual battle church -

11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual [hosts] of wickedness in the heavenly [places]. 13 Therefore

take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Our enemy / our battles are spiritual in nature.

Usually what happens when someone wrongs us is that we take something that is spiritual in nature and make it about self.

Ministry is one area -

“I don’t want to serve in a place where people undermine and stab me in the back”

Wasn’t Jesus undermined and stabbed in the back?

When we serve alongside Jesus Christ – it is going to be painful, it is going to be difficult.

But God is going to use them to humble me and change me and conform me into Jesus.

You see church, the enemy is against us –

The enemy wants to take our eyes off of the Lord.

The enemy wants us to not spiritually mature.

The enemy wants to disrupt our lives.

He wants to destroy our marriages.

He wants to convince us that our lives are meaningless.

He wants to convince us that God is not for us.

Another thing that is against us – some circumstances in our lives.

Things happen in our lives that cause us great sorrow

Things happen in our lives that cause us great pain

Things happen in our life that stretch us and pull us – even to the point where it feels that we cannot take any longer and we begin to feel that there is no way out.

Mix in a few dumb decision on our part and we have just made things worse.

So, the enemy can be against us, our circumstances can be against us –

Here is another thing that can be against us – we can be against ourselves.

We can be a very powerful tool in the hands of the enemy

By choosing to live in disobedience

By choosing to live contrary to the things of God

You see, we all know our own weaknesses.

We all know the area in our lives where we struggle.

And just like Paul in Romans 7 – we can come to the conclusion.

O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?

Jesus!!!! He delivers me, He rescues me

And He continues to rescue me as I abide in Him.

Since God is for us, who can really be against us? – that is the question that Paul wants us to consider –

We can have complete confidence

And Paul gives us substance to our confidence in God – beginning in verse 32 –

[Rom 8:32 NKJV] 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?

Here is what Paul is saying – If God sacrificed His own Son – while we were still sinners,

How much more will God give us freely all things as sons and daughters.

If God would go to the length He did to save us, is it reasonable to think He will not also protect and help us?

Turn to Genesis 22 –

Because I see some parallels between what Paul is telling s here and Abraham.

Genesis 22 is where Abraham faith is confirmed – not to God – because God already knew what Abraham was going to do – this was confirmation for Abraham.

God told Abraham to sacrifice his son (his only son – whom he loved, btw – this is the first time that love is mentioned in the scriptures - on top of Mt Moriah –

So we will pick it up in verse 9

[Gen 22:9-12 NKJV] 9 Then they came to the place of which God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and placed the wood in order; and he bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, upon the wood. 10 And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. 11 But the Angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" So he said, "Here I am." 12 And He said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only [son], from Me."

The Angel of The Lord – Jesus in the OT,

Tells Abraham - since you have not withheld your son, your only [son], from Me."

What would Abraham hold back from God if he was willing to sacrifice his own son?

Absolutely nothing –

What would God hold back – if He was willing to sacrifice His own Son.

Absolutely nothing!!!

The cross is God's ultimate love gift.

(1 John 3:16 NKJV) By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

(Rom 5:8 NKJV) But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

There is no greater demonstration of love.

When we doubt God's love for us, we look to the cross.

[Psa 84:10-11 NKJV] 10 For a day in Your courts [is] better than a thousand. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God Than dwell in the tents of wickedness. 11 For the LORD God [is] a sun and shield; The LORD will give grace and glory; No good [thing] will He withhold From those who walk uprightly.

And so we have confidence that He is for us – and that He will complete the work He promised to do in us.

AMEN

Let's pray...

To Receive Christ do the following:

Admit, "I am a sinner."

Confess and be willing to turn from your sin.

Believe, by faith that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross.

Receive, through prayer, Jesus Christ into your heart and receive eternal life.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins and cleanse me by Your blood. I accept You by faith as my personal Lord and Savior. Give me a thirst for Your Word and Help me to follow You all of my days. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

[Num 6:24-26 NLT] 24 '

May the LORD bless you and protect you.

May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you.

May the LORD show you his favor and give you his peace.'