

Bibles???

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

Turn your bibles with me to Romans 8

We are continuing our verse-by-verse study through Romans

This amazing letter in which the Holy Spirit inspired the Apostle Paul to write to the believers in Rome and to the church in general about the fundamentals of what it means to be a genuine follower of Jesus Christ

The problem of sin

God's wrath revealed on unrighteousness

God's righteous judgment

God's solution to sin – it's His work and His work alone – in Christ

Justification, Sanctification, Glorification

For it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."

Not of works, not of religion, not of self righteousness,

And Paul has reminded us that even though the believer has been given a new nature in Christ –

Even though we have been adopted into God's family -

Even though we have the Holy Spirit / the Helper dwelling inside of us – we still face this constant battle with our own flesh – of trying to pursue our own will instead of the perfect will that He has in store for us –

And His perfect will –

The reason you and I are here this morning

The trials we have faced, the trials we are currently going through right now, the circumstances we will face this week and the week after -

to conform us into the image of His Son.

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

Romans 8:28 – the spiritual mountaintop

On one side – our past, on the other side – our future and we can know that God is in complete control – using it for our good and His glory

We know that God is for us – we looked at that passage last week.

We can have the right perspective that if He is for us – who can be against us.

And one reason that we can know that God is for us – is because we have the promise that **He will take care of us** –

There is nothing He will not do to prove His love, no sacrifice He will not make to pay the price for us.

He has already given us the greatest gift to demonstrate His love for us.

In our text this morning – as we conclude our study in Ch 8

As we pack our tents – and begin the journey back down to the valley

Paul is going to give us two more reasons of our complete confidence in Christ –

That He will finish the work that He began in you and I

Let's pray...

Read Text –

One of the most amazing things about Romans 8 is the freedoms that the believer has in Christ -

We are free in Jesus Christ not to look back anymore but to look forward –

We have been delivered from the bondage of sin, in Jesus Christ

We have been delivered from aimless wandering.

We have been freed from bondage that would hold us back from living a life that is pleasing to God.

Turn to Phil 3

[Phi 3:13-14 NKJV] 13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing [I do], forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, 14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Paul certainly lived a life where he had much to regret in his past.

Paul says we are not tethered to our past –

Sometimes someone else may bring up our past or sometimes, even we may bring up our own past, in our minds, as we reflect on our lives -

Paul says, “I am not looking back” – I am looking forward – I am going to reach forward – I am going to press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Again – tied to Romans 8

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

And since there is no condemnation – that means that there is a deliverance from our past.

There is a cleansing of our life.

God is for us -

And the reason I bring this up is because – as I mentioned last week, there will be things that come against us, we will have opposition, we will have spiritual warfare in our life, and sometimes – we may be our own worst enemy – and we bring condemnation upon ourselves.

And we take our eyes off of the first half of Romans 8:31 – that God is for us

And instead – we fix our eyes on the second half of the promise – who can be against us – and we start to think that everyone and everything is against us.

Paul wants us to have the right perspective

Paul wants us to know, to have complete confidence in who we are in Jesus Christ.

That He is for us –

[Rom 8:33-39 NKJV] 33 Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? [It is] God who justifies.

Since God is for us, who can be against us

And now, Paul asks another question –

Who is going to bring charges / accusations against those who love God?

Against those who God has predestined and called and justified and glorified?

And just like last week – we learned that there are plenty of things that come against us and oppose us of our faith.

We know that there are enemies that can bring charges against us.

In Revelation 12:10 the devil is described as the accuser of the brethren who stands before God, day and night to condemn us.

Day and night Satan is accusing us before God.

The picture is of a courtroom where we are standing before God the Father, the great Judge. Satan is the prosecuting attorney, whose job it is to get a sentence of **guilt** pronounced upon you and me.

Look at what he did

Look at what she did

Satan isn't the only one that can bring accusations against the believer

People are going to bring accusations against us

They are going to accuse us of things we didn't do

They are going to remind us of our failures and shortcomings.

Our conscious will accuse us

And the truth is that as we continue to grow in our spiritual walk, as we present our lives as a living sacrifice before Him – we will face greater accusations.

I want a pause right here and I want us to think about what is the worst charge or accusation that can be made against us –

Hypocrisy?

Inconsistency?

The whisper in our ear, “You don’t deserve to be saved”

And if we are not trusting in the Lord – these accusations and charges may lead us into thinking that God doesn’t love us anymore.

They may lead us into thinking that we are not justified.

But see church –

We are not justified by the absence of accusations

We are not justified by following a list of do’s and don’ts

We are not justified by being religious or by trying to be good.

Here is the key to the entire verse –

It is God who justifies.

And one of the things that we have learned in our study through Romans is that believer has been justified by God – in Christ.

(Rom 3:24 NKJV) being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

We were made right with God through what Jesus did in dying on the cross.

(Rom 5:1 NKJV) Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

We receive this justification through faith, by trusting God to forgive us.

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

God now considers the believer as having already been completely made right before Him.

God justifies on the basis of Jesus

On the basis of the love of Jesus

On the basis of the life of Jesus, on the walk of Jesus, on the fellowship of Jesus, on the sacrifice of Jesus, on the resurrection of Jesus

So if we grasp this biblical truth church – that we are already justified in the eyes of the Justifier – who is the one who decides whether or not we are justified

Then who can bring a charge against us.

You see loved ones, no one can successfully accuse us in Jesus Christ

Because in Jesus Christ, we are cleansed, we are washed and forgiven our salvation is secured in the Lord.

But accusations are going to come.

So we live our lives above reproach

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.

Who is he who condemns –

Friends, family, coworkers

Bringing up our past

“What about 5 years ago?”

“What about that thing that happened 20 years ago?”

And if we dwell in the past – we will be stuck in the past.

Who is he who condemns -

not Jesus

Jesus has already dealt with our past

There is no condemnation to those who are in Christ

Jesus pulled us out of the miry clay –

Jesus delivered us out of the pit and set our feet upon a rock – and put a new song in our hearts (Psalm 40:1-2)

So we keep our eyes on Him.

Condemnation does not come from the Lord.

[Jhn 3:17-18 NKJV] 17 "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. 18 "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

So for the person who asks the question – what if God accuses me, what if God condemns me????

The answer is easy –

Unless one comes to Christ – they are condemned already.

Turn with me to John 8

[Jhn 8:2-11 NKJV] 2 Now early in the morning He came again into the temple, and all the people came to Him; and He sat down and taught them. 3 Then the scribes and Pharisees brought to Him a woman caught in adultery. And when they had set her in the midst, 4 they said to Him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in adultery, in the very act. 5 "Now Moses, in the law, commanded us that such should be stoned. But what do You say?" 6 This they said, testing Him, that they might have [something] of which to accuse Him. But Jesus stooped down and wrote on the ground with [His] finger, as though He did not hear. 7 So when they continued asking Him, He raised Himself up and said to them, **"He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first."** 8 And again He stooped down and wrote on the ground. 9 Then those who heard [it], being convicted by [their] conscience, went out one by one, beginning with the oldest [even] to the last. And Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. 10 When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, "Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?" 11 She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said to her, "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more."

I had you make a note of the phrase that Jesus tells the religious rulers –

"He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first."

BTW – at that very moment, who in the only one in the crowd who has the right to throw the first stone?

It's Jesus

Jesus had every right to pick up the stone and throw it at the woman caught in adultery.

But He didn't - "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more."

And within a few weeks – Jesus would come face to face with the cross where He would die to pay for that woman's transgressions as well as our transgressions.

Here is the connection –

Jesus has every right to condemn us – but instead, He intercedes on our behalf.

Just like He did with the woman caught in adultery.

Once again – He is for us

Now we are going to look at another promise –

One that He has promised to keep us.

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? [Shall] tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

Does Jesus love me?

Does He truly love me?

Paul has answered this question already –

[Rom 5:8-9 NKJV] 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.

Does Jesus love us? Yes

So – we know He loves us –

The question is – what now can separate us from that love?

And here in verse 35 – Paul gives us a list of things that I am pretty sure Paul experienced every single one of them in his life as he came to this conclusion.

- Tribulation - Jesus doesn't stop loving me when I'm under pressure.
- Distress - Jesus doesn't stop loving me when life is difficult.
- Persecution - Jesus doesn't stop loving me when others do.
- Famine - Jesus doesn't stop loving me when I lose my job or when I am going through financial difficulties.
- nakedness, or peril, or sword – Jesus doesn't stop loving me when my life is in danger.

Church, we live in a broken world, Jesus promised that we will face tribulations, we will lose family, we will have diagnosis of cancer, we will have set backs and difficulties.

And Paul let's us know that he has gone through each of these roads – he has faced deprivation and hardships and storms.

And at the end of each hardship and storm, there was God and there was His faithfulness and there was His love.

36 As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." 37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

The guarantee of God's faithful love does not mean everything will always be rosy.

Smack dab in the middle of affirming His unshakable love Paul drops a line from Psalm 44, which speaks of God's people being like sheep for the slaughter.

You see loved ones – the promises we have here at the end of ch 8 – these are not a promise of relief in this life – but release in the next.

This life and this world is not the realm in which God has promised to work everything out.

This world and life are just a temporary beginning.

It's in the glory that awaits us in heaven that everything is resolved.

The truth is believer – that our experience of pain, sorrow, suffering and hardships in this life will either result in us being bitter or they will result in us being better.

Those apart from Christ will only see the pain and suffering and sorrow

Those in Christ – our focus will be that no matter our circumstances, we are in Christ.

We are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

You see – this goes beyond simply enduring hardships

It's keeping in mind that God uses even that hardship for our good.

We are more than conquerors when we stop seeing trials and tribulations as merely something to endure.

We look at it from the perspective of faith in the love of God and realize in His hand it becomes blessing that forges our glory.

That means that all of the suffering

All of the trials

All of the pain and sorrow

Has given to us – all of the joy – all of the victory

We don't just "survive" our difficulties, God wants us to be "more than conquerors".

38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Paul is saying, I am convinced, I am certain –

That nothing, nothing, nothing will separate me from the love of God

Where God became man, laid down His life, that we might live.

And live for what? Not just to survive, but to enjoy an eternal love affair with the Greatest Lover of all eternity—God!

It is important to note – that this is not a conditional promise –

If I do this nothing will separate me from the love of God

No

For those who are in Christ

Nothing will separate them from the love of God

Every person who starts with God in Jesus – will finish with God in Jesus

What is it that can create a wedge that can make His love go away?

Paul's conclusion – there is no such thing.

Paul believed that the believer can know that they are saved and rest in that assurance

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[1Jo 5:12-13 NKJV] 12 He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. 13 These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may [continue to] believe in the name of the Son of God.

[Jhn 5:24 NKJV] 24 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.

So my prayer this morning is that we – just like Paul, may be persuaded of God's abiding love and that we may feast on His love for us.

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.'

