

Nothing Can Stop Us

Romans 8:31-34

Dr. Paul Cannings

A. If God is for Us (v. 31):

1. What then shall we say – This question is stated because we stand justified before the Lord God. We are, by His grace, viewed as in excellent standing before God; glorified (Romans 8:30).
 - a) No one can bring any charge against God's chosen or elect ones or condemn them, because God and Christ have participated in this divine action of handing over Christ. ^[1]
2. What then shall we say – Because of all of the work the Lord has done for us as outlined in chapter 5-8, what is going to be shared should be very clear.
 - a) The second is introduced with an "If" which implies no doubt about what follows: it signifies "If (as is the case)..." We must bear in mind that it is dangerous to say confidently *God is for us*, as religious fanatics have shown all too plainly through the centuries in their perpetration of innumerable horrors out of an arrogant conviction that they are completely right, and others are completely wrong. ^[2]
3. God - God is the subject of this passage with Christ being the person God does everything through. Salvation, justification, reconciliation are empowering us through the sanctification process so we share in His life (5:10-11) all because "God so loved..." (John 3:16).
4. God - Before the foundation of the world the Lord knew what was going to take place and organized all that is taking place on earth to save us from the death clutches of Satan and to provide us life (Genesis 3:15; 8:29-30).
 - a) The Godhead at work:
 - God is for us (vs. 31).
 - He delivered His son for us (vs. 32).
 - God is the one who justifies (vs. 33).
 - Christ died for us (vs. 34).
 - Christ intercedes for us (vs. 34).
5. If God is for us - Because of all that has taken place, there is no question that the Lord is always working in our favor. Since He is holy and perfect, He is always going to do all things for our good.
6. Who can be against us – When we look at everything the Lord has done, who can bring an accusation against us that the Lord could not withstand when we are committed to walk in the

Spirit and not the flesh.

a) His thought is, "In view of the fact that God is for us, who is or could be against us, to do us harm? That is, since God is for the saints, on their side, who can harm them?" Denney explains, "The Christian's faith in providence is an inference from redemption. The same God who did not spare His own Son will freely give us all things ... It vivifies the impression of God's love through the sense of the sacrifice it made.... He who has done so much, is certain to do much more."^[3]

7. Who can be against us – If an accusation is correct His grace is sufficient, and because we are at peace with Him, once we continue to surrender to His will, there is nothing anyone can do to cause the Lord God to turn against us.

B. He Gives Us All Things (v. 32):

1. Who did not spare His own son – God did not refrain from placing His one and only son to take on His wrath and pay the full price for all our sin. There was no hesitation (Genesis 3:15), because of His love for us, and for His son to facilitate His redemptive plan for mankind.

a) "His own" is *idios* (ἰδιος), "one's own peculiar, private possession." Our Lord is the Father's very own, private possession, infinitely dear to Him.^[4]

2. Delivered Him over to us all - God handed over Christ, who is all powerful (Colossians 1:15-20), to function under the authority of human beings (People Christ sustains daily), even to the point of being susceptible to betrayal, so that those in authority could do whatever they wanted to do to Him. He allowed Christ to be guilty for us in a human court.

3. With Him freely give - Since God willingly, on His own initiative (no man seeking Him; Romans 3:9-11), allowed His one and only son to die for us, how much more will God unconditionally graciously put His blessings in place each day toward us.

a) Since God gave the greatest Sacrifice of all, His own Son, He will certainly not hesitate to give believers all other things pertaining to and leading to their ultimate sanctification (cf. 2 Peter 1:3).^[5]

4. With Him freely give - Since God on His own initiative graciously provided to us His Son, that should be evidence that no matter what we may be going through, He would in the same manner willingly and unconditionally, grant to us His glorious favor.

5. All things; Whatsoever – The direct object of God's gift is to unconditionally freely provide the totality of all that He has for us and there is no distinction of anyone as long as they are saved.

C. No Matter What (vs. 33-34):

1. Who will bring a charge against us – Understand there is no one, because we stand justified before the Lord God. This is why Paul ask a rhetorical question concerning who in the Lord's court could bring an accusation before the Lord. Satan does daily (Revelation 12:10) but to no avail, because all our sins have been forgiven, we are no longer enemies with God and His righteous nature has been imputed into us; we are at peace with God (Ephesians 2:14-19). Once we continue through the sanctification process we experience the life of Christ.
 - a) Nothing can separate the believer from God. Note that 8:32 sums up Romans 1–5, and 8:33–34 sums up Romans 6–8. Paul proclaimed the believer's ultimate and eternal victory: justification by God (8:31–33), security in Christ (8:34), and conquest in all things (8:35–39). In 8:36 Paul quotes Psalm 44:22.^[6]
 - b) Three reasons are given as to why no one can condemn God's elect:
(1) Christ died for us; (2) he is alive and seated at the right hand of God, the position of power; (3) He is interceding for us.
2. God's elect; Chosen – Whoever it may be that accuses us must remember that they are coming before the Lord concerning His chosen people that He foreknew, predestined, called, justified, and glorified (8:29-20). The execution of His plan throughout eternity should signify how important and special the Lord's chosen are to Him.
 - a) Court of law is in mind. No charge can be brought against the Christian because God has already pronounced a verdict of not guilty.
3. Justified - Christ's death on Calvary, not our efforts, put us continuously back in right standing with God. This becomes a reality when we accept the gift of salvation by believing in our hearts (Romans 10:9) that Christ did die and rose from the grave.
4. Justified - Our salvation allows God to see us continuously as righteous in His eyes because the Holy Spirit is poured into us (Titus 3:4-8) sealing us in preparation for our entrance into the presence of God (Ephesians 1:13-14). This allows us to be at peace with God (Ephesians 2:17). This is an act of God through Jesus Christ, not a process.
5. Justified - The direct result of having righteousness imputed into us (having the Holy Spirit quicken our spirit) is that we can now continuously be guiltless before God.
6. Who is the one who condemns - Even though satan comes before God accusing us every day, all of our guilt has been removed, so there is no way he can cause the Lord God to cast judgment on us because the death sentence that was once placed upon us was removed by Christ's death and resurrection. The same person who has removed our guilt is not going to condemn us.
7. Who is the one who condemns - Being justified and imputed with righteousness we can experience peace with God for a great friendship (John 15:13). Instead of living each day

worrying about being punished by God we can now live seeking to spiritual maturity to become like Christ (Romans 8:9-14).

8. Christ Jesus is He who died - Christ being fully God, and as Jesus fully man, paid for our sin while knowing no sin. The judgement for our sin has been by once and for all removed by Christ's death. So, Christ is no longer guilty of our sin; since His death paid for our sin, there is no way anyone can come before God and have a justified reason to cast judgement on us.
9. Raise - Christ overcame the penalty of sin once and for all by overcoming death when He got up from the grave. So, in the midst of all the suffering these saints were experiencing, death had no victory. When we face death, we immediately enter into the presence of the Lord (2 Corinthians 5:6). Thanks to Christ, we cannot be condemned to death.
10. Raise - If death has no victory, why is the "wages of sin death" (Romans 6:23)? When we live in the flesh and set our minds on fleshly things we can become spiritually dead (Romans 5:5-8; 6:5-7, 12-23) which can lead to an early death (1 Corinthians 11:27-32; 1 John 5:16). This death however, does not remove the opportunity to spend eternity in heaven (John 14:16-17). When we live in the Spirit we share in all the blessings Christ has for us (Romans 8:9-14; Luke 12:31-34; John 15:6-7).
11. Right side of God - When Jesus entered into God's court, He, who made us all guiltless before God was seated in equal standing with God with all honor executing all that takes place in God's court. Christ absolute power executes no judgment for those who are saved, especially for those who choose to live a sanctified life through the ministry of the Holy Spirit.
 - a) *Christ is at the right hand¹⁶¹ of God*, an important part of New Testament teaching (Acts 2:33; 5:31; 7:55-56; Eph. 1:20; Col. 3:1; Heb. 1:3; 8:1; 10:12; 12:2; 1 Pet. 3:22). It means that he is in the place of highest honor in heaven. The posture of sitting (Eph. 1:20; Col. 3:1; Heb. 1:3, etc.) signifies "the finished work of Christ", as the older theologians delighted to put it. ^[7]
12. Intercedes for us - When we are accused Christ pleads (He is the One who paid for all our sin) for us against our accusers on our behalf and has absolute authority to decide what God does towards us. This is why we can know for sure that we will not experience more than we can bear (1 Corinthians 10:13). We can also cast our cares on Him as often as we need to (1 Peter 5:6-10).
13. Intercedes for us - Once we accept Christ, He becomes our wall of defense against Satan so that we can be fully exposed to Christ who "freely gives us all things". He even hears the groans of our heart (Romans 8:26).
 - a) By the authority, which is innate to His deity, the Lord Jesus makes intercession for us to God the Father. By His victorious death, His victorious resurrection, His victorious ascension into heaven, and His victorious intercession for us, the Lord Jesus has sealed the eternal purpose of God. In the whole universe there is nothing which can provide greater assurance than the finished work of Christ. ^[8]

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- ^[1] Pfeiffer, C. F., & Harrison, E. F. (Eds.). (1962). [*The Wycliffe Bible Commentary: New Testament*](#) (Ro 8:31–35). Chicago: Moody Press.
- ^[2] Morris, L. (1988). [*The Epistle to the Romans*](#) (p. 335). Grand Rapids, MI; Leicester, England: W.B. Eerdmans; Inter-Varsity Press.
- ^[3] Wuest, K. S. (1997). [*Wuest's word studies from the Greek New Testament: for the English reader*](#) (Vol. 2, pp. 147–148). Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.
- ^[4] Wuest, K. S. (1997). [*Wuest's word studies from the Greek New Testament: for the English reader*](#) (Vol. 2, p. 148). Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.
- ^[5] Witmer, J. A. (1985). [*Romans*](#). In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 2, pp. 474–475). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.
- ^[6] Hughes, R. B., & Laney, J. C. (2001). [*Tyndale concise Bible commentary*](#) (p. 536). Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.
- ^[7] Morris, L. (1988). [*The Epistle to the Romans*](#) (pp. 337–338). Grand Rapids, MI; Leicester, England: W.B. Eerdmans; Inter-Varsity Press.
- ^[8] Radmacher, E. D., Allen, R. B., & House, H. W. (1999). [*Nelson's new illustrated Bible commentary*](#) (p. 1441). Nashville: T. Nelson Publishers.