

## SAFE AND SECURE IN GOD'S LOVE - January 10, 2021

Back in December we were looking at Romans 8, and talking about our salvation, and I talked about the 3 aspects of our salvation, our past justification, our present sanctification, and our future glorification. But the focus was on our future hope, and most Christians don't understand this, and the fact that we'll receive a wonderful inheritance, a glorified body, and that this earth will be renovated and restored.

The last part of Rom. 8 tells us how we can be confident and assured that this is going to happen. And we can have confidence because the Holy Spirit is praying for us, because God is sovereignly working all things together for good, and because God, who planned out every aspect of our salvation way back in eternity past, will surely complete it. What God promised to us and predestined will most definitely be carried out. - But God has more to say about how our salvation is guaranteed, is secure, is assured, and so let's continue to see what Rom. 8 tells us.

Rom. 8:31. We have a series of six questions that are asked, all given to help us see that our salvation is secure, is safe, is guaranteed, and will be completed. The first question, "*What then shall we say to these things?*" directs us back to what we just read. That is, how do you respond to this truth God has given to you about your salvation? Well, there's nothing we or anyone can say to counter what God is going to do, and so we should be super-excited, super-encouraged, and super-confident that what God says is going to happen, will take place, will be fulfilled.

The next question, "*If God is for us, who is against us?*" is better translated as "*Because God is for us, who is against us?*" Here is God Almighty, the Lord God of heaven and earth, the Creator, the Sustainer, the all-powerful, all loving, all wise God, and He is for us, He is 1000% committed to us. Psalm 56:9. God is the One who saved us, who caused us to be born again - and nothing can prevent Him from completely saving us, from glorifying us and bringing us to heaven, which will happen when we die or when we are raptured.

And God is surely not going to take away your salvation if you do something wrong, if you do something really sinful. Some people, and some churches believe that you can lose your salvation, that you can one day be saved, and the next day be unsaved. Once you are saved, you can't commit some sin that'll take away your salvation, and take you down that road where you'll be punished forever in the lake of fire. Mortal sin

And there's no way that any person or any devil or demon can stop God from doing what He wants to do in your life. It's like a man and an ant - you all know that an ant is no match for a man. Man is much, much, much stronger than one little ant.  
- And so not you nor any person or being can keep God from carrying out His purpose for you, can cause you to lose your salvation, and keep you from going to heaven.

Rom. 8:32. Paul uses the truth of the gospel to help answer this question about the security of our salvation, that once we're truly saved, then we'll always be saved. God sent His Son to die for us, to pay for all our sins, so that we're then justified, are forgiven, are children of God. The gospel itself, what Christ did on the cross for us is foundational to our salvation, a salvation that can't be taken back, can't be revoked.  
- I mean if you're saved, how can you be unsaved? If you are a child of God how can you go back and be a child of the devil? If you are one day forgiven of all your sins, how can you the next day not be forgiven of all your sins? And so you see that the gospel is foundational to your salvation, but it's also foundational to the eternal security of your salvation, and is in itself a guarantee that you will always be saved.

What we also see here is God's logic. That is, the greatest thing God did for you was have Jesus Christ die for you and pay for all your sins and then be raised again. And the gospels and the epistles make it super clear that Christ dying for us and being raised again is the single most important thing God did for us. And if God did that for us, won't He *"freely give us all things,"* won't He do whatever else He needs to do to make sure we stay saved and make it to heaven? Of course, He will.  
- Eph. 1:3 - We're blessed in all kinds of ways that relate to being saved and staying saved.  
1 Pet. 1:3-5 - God protects us during our life here on earth. 2 Tim. 4:18 - Indeed, God will rescue us from every evil deed and bring us safely to His heavenly kingdom. 1 Cor. 1:8

Rom. 8:33-34. Your own fleshly mind will at times bring charges against you, and the devil will surely charge you, will try to condemn you, and make you feel guilty.  
- Rev. 12:9 - The word Satan means accuser, for he's regularly accusing you of some sin. Rev. 12:11 - Now we overcome the devil's attacks by believing the truth of the gospel, that Jesus, the Lamb, shed His blood for us. Zech. 3:1-5  
- Rom 8:1 - No one can take God's position, and since God is the only One who can truly condemn anyone of sin, and since God already condemned Christ for you, then no one else can condemn you. *"Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."*

John 5:24-30. Now there will be that time when Christ judges sinners, but He sure won't condemn or judge you. And you should be very thankful for what God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit have done for you in saving you, and in securing your salvation.

- Rom. 8:34. We read that the Spirit intercedes for you, and here we see that Jesus intercedes for you. He prays for you. He asks the Father to help you. And He defends you before the Father. And this should greatly encourage you, knowing that both the Spirit and Jesus are literally praying for you, and they are praying a lot for you.
- Indeed, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit will not let you lose your salvation.

Rom. 8:35-39. This is a great passage about how God loves you. But let's back up and look at this whole section of vss. from vs. 15 to vs. 39.

- Rom. 8:15-17. You see that you're a child of God and you're not to be afraid of anyone or anything. You are to have this close relationship with God, and an important aspect of that is knowing that He loves you. But then we see that we will suffer during this present time, during our life here on earth.
- Rom. 8:18-34 talks about our future, and how we should be confident that we are now saved, and that God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit will make sure that no matter what happens, we will be fully saved, be glorified.

Rom. 8:35-39. We read about how we can go through suffering in vss. 17-18, but now this subject of suffering is more fully explained. One of the hardest things for Christians is when we suffer, when we go through difficult times, and it's at times like that when we may think God doesn't love us anymore, or for some people, that they have lost their salvation. Psalm 13

- And so God knows we need these vss. to help us make it through the hard times of life. And these vss. are very relevant now that we are in the end-times, and are getting closer to Christ's coming, for life is going to get harder and harder, and especially when the Antichrist comes and there's great tribulation.

Rom. 8:35. We have another important question. We've talked about how you can't lose your salvation, but is there anything in life that can cut you off, that can separate you, that can keep you from experiencing the love of Christ? And of course, the answer is no. Now to clarify, this phrase, "*the love of Christ*" is referring to God's love for you. We all know that God loved us first, and is the One who keeps on loving us. It says in 1 John 4:19 - "*we love because He first loved us.*" And there is nothing in life that can separate you from God's love, that can keep God from loving you, and can keep you from knowing and experiencing His love.

And to further illustrate this point, Paul goes through this list of difficult things in life:

- There is tribulation which means being under pressure, or in stressful situations.
- There is distress which means being helplessly hemmed in, of being squeezed and afflicted by all these trials and difficulties in life. Psalm 118, Psalm 46:1
- There is persecution which means suffering for Christ.
- Famine means there is a lack of food and it could result from being discriminated against in employment resulting in not having a job and therefore not having money to buy food.
- Nakedness can refer to being destitute with the result that you don't have enough clothes.
- Peril just means being exposed to danger in general, particularly from bad people.
- The sword is the kind of instrument used by assassins, and so this can speak of being murdered, of being killed by the enemy.

Now these will be the kind of things that will afflict Christians during the days of great tribulation brought on by the Antichrist. That's why it's so important to understand God's promise, that none of these things can separate you from His love. Other countries. No matter what you go through, remember God is always with you, and that He keeps loving you, and will keep loving you. Ex. 33:14 – Ps. 90:14, Psalm 13, 31:7, 26:3, 136

Psalm 23:1-6. This too speaks of God's love for you, but vs. 3 says it's for God's sake, for His purposes and glory that you go through difficulties, which is what Rom. 8:26 says. We often think a lot about our lives, and are so focused on what we do, and we forget that first and foremost, life is to be centered on God and not on ourselves.

- Phil. 1:21. To live is not to be about you but is to be about Christ. Always remember this as you go through life, and especially as you go through trials. Ph. 1:12-14, Ps. 44

Rom. 8:37. And in all these things, we are to overwhelmingly conquer, that is, we are not just squeaking by with a victory – it is not just a last second shot at the buzzer and we win by two points, but we smash the opponent, we beat them 100 to 1. You need to see this, that you're a child of God and the enemy is no match for you. 1 Jn. 4:4 - *"Greater is He who is in you than He who is in the world."* And He isn't just a little greater, but infinitely greater. *"Because God is for us, who can be against us?"*

Rom. 8:38-39. Paul again makes the point about not being separated from God's love, and that's because he wants to hammer it home, he wants to make sure you understand it. He wants this truth to be deep in your heart, for then it will be lived out in your life. And so Paul goes on to state a number of other examples, relating to time and space, to demonic powers, and that death itself, cannot keep you from the great love of God. And knowing this great love of God is one of the most important keys to living your life for the Lord, whether it is this year or any year. Psalm 103, 136, 139 are about God's love.