

If God is For Us

The Response to “These Things”

1) General Principle & Proof (v. 31-32)

- a) Principle: God’s FOR beats any AGAINST (v. 31)

- b) Proof: God gave His only Son for us (v. 32)

2) Specific Confessions (v. 33-39)

a) Legal Confessions

- 1. God is the Justifier (v. 33)

- 2. Jesus is the Intercessor (v. 34)

John 5:22 – the Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son.

b) Life Confessions**1. Jesus Loves Us Through Life's Trials – v. 35-37**

- Tribulation – generic word for “trouble”
- Distress – “a tight squeeze”
- Persecution – particular harassment, oppression with harmful intent
- Famine – prolonged hunger
- Nakedness – real financial deprivation
- Danger – personal peril (2 Cor 11:26)
- Sword – whether from some violent criminal or from the civil authorities who “bear the sword”

v. 36 – Psalm 44:22

v. 37 – *More than conquerors*

1 John 5:4 – *everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world.*

Rev 3-4 – *to the one who overcomes, I will...*

2 Cor 4:17-18...

2. We are Sure Jesus Loves us – v. 38-39**Praxis**

1. Locate the instances of the word “all” in v. 31-39 – what is the effect of Paul's repeated use of this term on you? How does such use enlighten v. 28's use?
2. Identify the specific reason in these verses that the Gospel is not one to be ashamed of... (2:11, 3:25-26, 4:1-6, 5:21, 6:1-4, 8:18-23, 8:29-30).
3. Meditate on 2 Cor 4:10 – what does it mean for Christians to “always be carrying in the body the death of Jesus?”
4. How should these “Confessions” be incorporated into our prayers? Does Ps 44:23-26 (following 44:22) represent a faithful expression of these confessions? How/Why?