

These Great Things

Romans 8:31-34

Romans 8:28–34 (NKJV)

²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose. ²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. ³⁰ Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

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? ³³ Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? *It is* God who justifies. 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.

Introduction:

Two of the greatest things a believer can have is assurance of Salvation and Eternal Security. They are anchors for the soul. They are encouragement to the heart, and they are power to persevere.

However, these 2 truths are some of the most attacked and misrepresented doctrines by believers and unbelievers which no doubt makes the devil very happy.

Because nothing can so paralyze the believer in service to Christ and remove the joy in his salvation than to doubt whether I am saved and whether I will remain saved.

True believer will lie awake at night filled with fear and anxiety as to whether the sin they struggle with daily has proven that they are not saved at all, or that they may have lost the salvation they had just hours ago.

This confusion and anxiety come from two primary areas.

1. Experience
2. Eisegesis

Experience - This is the sadly typical situation, where someone makes a profession of faith in Christ and claims to be saved. They may have confessed Christ in a Church or with a friend or a pastor. They were baptized and were excited about their new found faith. They get a bible and start coming to church.

But for some reason, over time, they don't come as much, and it's getting harder and harder to get them to answer the phone. And then you see them back in their old lifestyle with their old friends enjoying the same worldly and sinful lifestyle they used to be involved in. This has happened thousands of times and continues to.

The conclusion is drawn from this that they have lost their salvation. That the believer stopped believing, the follower stopped following, the repenter stopped repenting.

The once saved is now lost

The Forgiven is no longer forgiven

The reconciled is no longer reconciled

The adopted is no longer adopted

The Elected is no longer elect

The called are no longer called

The justified are no longer justified

The glorified are not longer glorified.

Everything that Christ did on the Christ is undone and its efficacy is removed.

The problem with this conclusion is that it concludes that there is only one conclusion==that they lost their salvation. That they genuinely were saved and the lost it.

But is not the case at all.

The other conclusion that can be drawn from this is that they were never saved genuinely to begin with.

This is supported by Scripture.

Matthew 13, with the parables of Kingdom clearly teach that there are more that have an initial response and embracing of the Gospel yet are not truly converted.

Matthew 13:18–23 (NKJV)

¹⁸ “Therefore hear the parable of the sower:

¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and

does not understand *it*, then the wicked *one* comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside.

²⁰ But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹ yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles.

²² Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.

²³ But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands *it*, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.”

Matthew 13:24–26 (NKJV)

²⁴ Another parable He put forth to them, saying: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; ²⁵ but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. ²⁶ But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared.

1. Experience

2. Eisegesis

Eisegesis is taking a particular belief or theological view point, or experience and reading it into the text.

So the experience I just noted would be pushed on to a text. Your text will become a proof text for your experience.

Even though there are many scriptures that support the security of the believer. Those will be discarded and or reinterpreted in favor of other passages that are unclear, or interpreted out of context.

This happens all the time and in regards to the security of the believer it happens a-lot.

Once you understand the clear passages of the Bible regarding this, any other view that would say a person would lose there salvation would make these very clear passages a lie.

Like

John 6:37 (NKJV)

³⁷ **All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.**

John 6:39–40 (NKJV)

³⁹ This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should **lose nothing**, but should raise it up at the last day. ⁴⁰ And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; **and I will raise him up at the last day.**”

1 Peter 1:4–5 (NKJV)

⁴ to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,
⁵ who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

And of course, the passage we are looking at in Romans 8.

That starts with

1. We are not condemned

Romans 8:1 (NKJV)

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

2. We have the Holy Spirit testifies we are His

Romans 8:16–18 (NKJV)

¹⁶ The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs —heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him*, that we may also be glorified together.

3. The Spirit Intercedes for our weaknesses

Romans 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.

4. All things are made to work together,

Romans 8:28 (NKJV)

²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose.

5. It is Predetermined that we are conformed to the image of Christ.

Romans 8:29 (NKJV)

²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

6. God's Predetermined plans never looses anyone

Romans 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.

Lesson

There are only 2 ways the salvation we have in Christ can be attacked.

1. **Through persons-** God, Devil, angels, demons, men
2. **Through circumstances** - trials and temptations, sins and evil, failures and faults

Our first section of verses

Romans 8:31–34

Refute the possibility that **any person** can remove or cause to lose the Salvation applied to the sinner.

1. God is for us, not against us
2. Christ died for us and Intercedes for us

1. God is for us, not against us

31 What then shall we say to these things?

After Paul has reach a climax in his great and stupendous declaration of the Security of Salvation based in the Predetermined Plan of God, you might think that Paul has nothing more to say

But

Paul, as he often does, anticipates the objector. As a good teacher, he makes a presentation of theological position, and then raises the anticipated objections that would naturally and logically be made.

31 What then shall we say to these things?

these things—

What things???

this refers to all the truth of the great and secure salvation Paul has declared.

Romans 3:21 (NKJV)

²¹ But now the **righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed**, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets,

Romans 5:1 (NKJV)

5 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Romans 5:9–10 (NKJV)

⁹ Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.

¹⁰ For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

Romans 8:1 (NKJV)

8 *There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.*

Romans 8:28–30 (NKJV)

²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. ²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. ³⁰ Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, **these He also glorified.**

So Paul begins by stating a all inclusive, rhetorical question.

If God *is* for us, who *can be* against us?

Greek conditional particle *ei*, signifying a fulfilled condition, not a mere possibility. The meaning of the first clause is therefore “***Because God is for us.***”

MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (1991). [Romans](#) (Vol. 1, p. 502). Chicago: Moody Press.

The obvious implication of Paul's statement, is that there is no one more powerful and capable than God.

If He has declared you no longer Condemned, who can overturn what God had declared

If God who is omnipotent and righteous and can never lie, who has saved you, declared you righteous and promised you eternal life, lie and take back what he as promised and undo what He has declared as a righteous judge.

Psalm 27:1 (NKJV)

- 1 The Lord *is* my light and my salvation;
Whom shall I fear?
The Lord *is* the strength of my life;
Of whom shall I be afraid?

Psalm 46:1–3 (NKJV)

- 1 God *is* our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble.
- 2 Therefore we will not fear,
Even though the earth be removed,
And though the mountains be carried into the
midst of the sea;

³ *Though* its waters roar *and* be troubled,
Though the mountains shake with its swelling.

Psalm 46:11 (NKJV)

¹¹ The Lord of hosts *is* with us;
The God of Jacob *is* our refuge.

Isaiah 40:22 (NKJV)

²² *It is* He who sits above the circle of the earth,
And its inhabitants *are* like grasshoppers,
Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,
And spreads them out like a tent to dwell in.

Isaiah 40:26 (NKJV)

²⁶ Lift up your eyes on high,
And see who has created these *things*,
Who brings out their host by number;
He calls them all by name,
By the greatness of His might
And the strength of *His* power;
Not one is missing.

Isaiah 40:28 (NKJV)

²⁸ Have you not known?
Have you not heard?
The everlasting God, the Lord,
The Creator of the ends of the earth,

Neither faints nor is weary....

Even with this stated, there are still those that will teach that there are persons that can overturn what God,

Some believe that people can rob us of our salvation.

Some attempt to do this by teaching a false Gospel, that says you have to do something or not do something.

Galatians 5:2–4 (NKJV)

² Indeed I, Paul, say to you that if you become circumcised, Christ will profit you nothing. ³ And I testify again to every man who becomes circumcised that he is a debtor to keep the whole law. ⁴ You have become estranged from Christ, you who *attempt to* be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.

Some do this as a False religion claiming authority they do not have.

The Roman Catholic church teaches that salvation can be lost by committing so-called mortal

sins and also claims power for itself both to grant and to revoke grace.

MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (1991). [*Romans*](#) (Vol. 1, p. 504). Chicago: Moody Press.

Colossians 2:13–14 (NKJV)

¹³ And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, ¹⁴ having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

Some believe that the devil can overturn the saving purpose of God, or that demons or man can overturn the salvation in Christ.

But

John 10:28–30 (NKJV)

²⁸ And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch *them* out of My Father's hand. ³⁰ I and My Father are one.”

2 Arguments are given to Prove the God is for us and How He is For us.

1. The Sacrifice
 2. The Sentence
- ### 1. The Sacrifice

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?

How could it possibly be that God would sacrifice His own Son for the sake of those who believe in Him and then cast some of those blood-bought believers out of His family and His kingdom?

Would God do less for believers after they are saved than He did for them prior to salvation? Would He do less for His children than He did for His enemies? I

If God loved us so much while we were wretched sinners that He delivered up **His own Son ... for us**, would He turn His back on us after

we have been cleansed from sin and made righteous in His sight?

MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (1991). *Romans* (Vol. 1, pp. 504–505). Chicago: Moody Press.

32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all

The Sacrifice of Christ on Cross is the foundation for the Security of Salvation.
The Plan and Purpose of the Sacrifice.
The Efficacy and Application of the Salvation.
All speak the purpose of God to Secure you as his own.

John 3:16–17 (NKJV)

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

Isaiah 53:4–6 (NKJV)

⁴ Surely He has borne our griefs
And carried our sorrows;

Yet we esteemed Him stricken,
Smitten by God, and afflicted.

- ⁵ But He *was* wounded for our transgressions,
He was bruised for our iniquities;
The chastisement for our peace *was* upon Him,
And by His stripes we are healed.
- ⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray;
We have turned, every one, to his own way;
And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us
all.

Isaiah 53:10 (NKJV)

- ¹⁰ Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him;
He has put *Him* to grief.
When You make His soul an offering for sin,...

Romans 3:24–25 (NKJV)

²⁴ being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God set forth *as* a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed,

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV)

²¹ For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Galatians 1:4 (NKJV)

⁴ who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father,

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?

Freely give translates *charizomai*, which means to bestow graciously or out of grace. In some of Paul's other letters the same word carries the idea of forgiveness (see 2 Cor. 2:7, 10; 12:13; Col. 2:13; 3:13). It therefore seems reasonable to interpret Paul's use of *charizomai* in Romans 8:32 as including the idea of God's gracious forgiveness as well as His gracious giving. If so, the apostle is also saying that God **freely forgives us all things** (cf. 1 John 1:9). God's unlimited forgiveness makes it

impossible for a believer to sin himself out of God's grace.

MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (1991). [*Romans*](#) (Vol. 1, p. 506). Chicago: Moody Press.

1. The Sacrifice

2. The Sentence

33 Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? *It is* God who justifies.

Who would have the ability to bring a credible accusation against God's Elect that HE has declared Righteous, forgiven, debt paid,

There is nothing that anyone can bring to the bench of the Judge of the universe does not already know. NO sin can be brought that has not been forgiven. No trespass can be brought that has not be forgiven.

Job 1:8–10 (NKJV)

⁸ Then the Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job, that *there is* none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?"

⁹ So Satan answered the Lord and said, “Does Job fear God for nothing? ¹⁰ Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land.

Isaiah 54:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷ No weapon formed against you shall prosper,
And every tongue *which* rises against you in
judgment
You shall condemn.
This *is* the heritage of the servants of the Lord,
And their righteousness *is* from Me,”
Says the Lord.

Revelation 12:10–11 (NKJV)

¹⁰ Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven,
“Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of
our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for
the accuser of our brethren, who accused them
before our God day and night, has been cast down.
¹¹ And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb
and by the word of their testimony, and they did not
love their lives to the death.

All those who might have power, have no ability to overthrow or reverse the sentence that God has Given.

33 Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? *It is God who justifies.*

Romans 3:24–26 (NKJV)

²⁴ being justified (P.P.Pt) **having been justified.**

freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, ²⁶ to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

Isaiah 50:7–9 (NKJV)

⁷ “For the Lord God will help Me;
Therefore I will not be disgraced;
Therefore I have set My face like a flint,
And I know that I will not be ashamed.

⁸ *He is near who justifies Me;*

Who will contend with Me?

Let us stand together.

Who *is* My adversary?

Let him come near Me.

- 9 Surely the Lord God will help Me;
 Who *is* he *who* will condemn Me?
 Indeed they will all grow old like a garment;
 The moth will eat them up.

Another way of looking at this is. If all sin has been forgiven and trespasses removed. How can they be used to accuse the sinner, when the payment has been made and Justice has been satisfied.

1 John 1:9 (NKJV)

9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Titus 2:14 (NKJV)

14 who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself *His* own special people, zealous for good works.

Jeremiah 33:8 (NKJV)

⁸ I will cleanse them from all their iniquity by which they have sinned against Me, and I will pardon all their iniquities by which they have sinned and by which they have transgressed against Me.

Colossians 1:21 (NKJV)

²¹ And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled

Colossians 2:13 (NKJV)

¹³ And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses,

1. God is for us, not against us

2. Christ died for us and Intercedes for us

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.

1. Christ is the Judge, and He is the one who died for you.

John 5:22 (NKJV)

²² For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son,

John 5:26–29 (NKJV)

²⁶ For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, ²⁷ and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man. ²⁸ Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice ²⁹ and come forth— those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.

2. The Judge is not dead, but is alive and in the place of Authority to be our Advocate.

He died and satisfied the Justice of God was Resurrected as proof of the Fathers acceptance of the Substitutionary death of Christ

Romans 4:25 (NKJV)

²⁵ who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification.

⁴ 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.

Hebrews 7:24–25 (NKJV)

²⁴ But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood. ²⁵ Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

1 John 2:1–2 (NKJV)

My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the

righteous. ² And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

So we are secure because

1. God is for us, not against us
2. Christ died for us and Intercedes for us

That great truth inspired Count Zinzendorf to write the following lines in the glorious hymn “Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness,” translated by John Wesley:

Bold I shall stand in that great day,
For who ought to my charge shall lay?
Fully absolved through Thee I am
From sin and fear, from guilt and shame.

MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (1991). *Romans* (Vol. 1, p. 507). Chicago: Moody Press.