

Sermon Text: Romans 8:31-39

The perseverance of the saints depends on the grace of God.

1) Believers have assurance of perseverance from God's gracious decree (8:31).

- a) God's decree—8:31a "these things" (that is, "God purpose" [8:28]; foreknowledge/love [8:29]; predestination [8:30]; the unbroken chain from "foreknew" to "glorified" [8:29-30])
- b) Objective Assurance of Perseverance—8:31a "What shall we say to these things?"—implication of God's decree
- c) **Application:** You cannot lose what God has not put in your control.

2) Believers have assurance of glorification from God's supreme sacrifice of His own Son (8:32).

- a) God is "He who did not spare His own Son"—focuses on the character of the Giver—inexhaustible love and grace
- b) "how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things"
 - i) Christ is the supreme gift of the Father—"all things" pale in comparison; argument from greater to lesser
 - ii) "all things" are bound up "with Him" because He united Himself to us in the incarnational bond of the covenant
- c) **Application:** Sanctification will progress to glorification because God has promised it with the gift of His Son. "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who is at work in you both to will and to work according to His good pleasure."—Philippians 2:12b-13

3) Believers have assurance of justification from God's supreme court and Christ's infallible defense (8:33-34).

- a) "charge" (v. 33) and "condemn" (v. 34) point to the reality of the presence of sin in a believer's life—there are charges to be brought that carry the sentence of condemnation
- b) "It is God who justifies."—God has the final word and He has already declared us righteous in Christ (Rom. 3:22)
- c) "Christ Jesus is the one who . . ."—an INFALLIBLE DEFENSE:
 - i) "died" as a propitiation for our sin (Rom. 3:23-25; 4:25a)
 - ii) "was raised" for our justification (Rom. 4:25b)
 - iii) "indeed is interceding for us" (Heb. 7:25; 1 John 2:1)
- d) **Application:** Do not try to hide your sin or fix your guilt yourself, but confess it to God through the Lord Jesus.

4) Believers have assurance of vindication from the tenacious love of the Father and the Son (8:35-39).

- a) The Love of the Son: 8:35a "Who shall separate us from *the love of Christ*?"
- b) The Love of the Father: 8:39b ". . . *the love of God* in Christ Jesus our Lord."
- c) Need for Vindication:
 - i) The World's Condemnation of Believers (8:35b-36)
 - ii) All Possible Enemies of Believers (8:38-39a)
- d) Assurance of Vindication (8:37-39):
 - i) "more than conquerors"
 - (1) "in all these things"
 - (2) "through Him who loved us"
 - ii) "I am sure . . . [nothing] will be able to separate us"
- e) **Application:** You can face hardships and injustices by trusting in God's sovereign purpose for His glory and your good.

Doxology: "Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of His glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen."—Jude 24-25