

Romans 8:31-39 – “Absolute Security in Christ”

(Pew Bible Page: 944-945)

Intro: For many weeks we have been going through these chapters in Romans dealing with security of the believer’s salvation. The apostle has taken us methodically through the wonders of what God has done for us in Christ to bring us to final salvation. Paul, like a skillful defense attorney who has presented his case before the jury, now calls for a final verdict: “In view of the facts, are we secure in Christ or not,” he asks. In tonight’s passage he calls for a final verdict. In the light of all the facts shared with us from 5:1-8:30, Paul will urge us to reach a conclusion:

Proposition: Nothing in all of creation can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Billboard: (vv.31-34) All who could condemn us, are for us
 (vv.35-37) All that might shake us loose, is for our good
 (vv.38-39) The Final Verdict: I am SURE that God’s LOVE will HOLD US FAST

(vv.31-34) All who could condemn us, are for us – The apostle begins his closing argument to the jury by calling for a conclusion, based on the facts he has presented: **Romans 8:31 - 31** *What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?* What are the facts Paul calls to our attention:

The Facts of What God has Done for Us:

- 5:1 – God has put us right with Himself by faith
- 5:8 – God rescued us while we were still sinners
- 5:18 – God has taken us out of Adam and placed us in union with Christ
- 5:21 – God has taken us out of the reign of sin and placed us under the reign of grace
- 6:4 – God has destined us for a new life
- 7:6 – God has removed us from the Law’s power to condemn and placed us under the Spirit’s new way of righteousness
- 8:1-2 – God has resolved our struggle against sin by giving us the Holy Spirit’s indwelling presence
- 8:17 – God has made us family members and heirs with Christ, removing fear as our motive for obedience and replacing it with familial love
- 8:21 – God has promised to release creation itself from sin’s grasp
- 8:23 – God has promised our personal release from sin’s grasp
- 8:26 – God has given us the Spirit’s help in our prayers

THERE IS NOT ONE THING IN THIS LIST THAT YOU AND I CAN DO FOR OURSELVES. ALL THESE THINGS COME TO US BY GRACE, RECEIVED THROUGH FAITH.

Who Can Condemn Us? Since all of this is true, who can possibly condemn us? Can Satan? No. He has been defeated at the cross. Can our flesh? No. The flesh has been crucified with Christ. Can the World? No. The World is doomed to be crushed under the pierced feet of the returning Christ. Our enemies have no power to condemn us, but is it conceivable that God might now change His mind and bring us back under condemnation? Unthinkable!

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Romans 8:32 - 32 *He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?* If God the Father gave His greatest gift to save us, how could He possibly now refuse us whatever lesser thing it takes for us to be finally saved? Unthinkable! That would be like buying an expensive automobile, then letting it sit unused because you don't want to pay for gas or insurance to run it.

Romans 8:33 - 33 *Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.* Since God the Father has justified us in Christ, will He now reverse course and bring a charge against us (cf. 1 Cor. 1:30)? That would mean that all He did for us in Christ had failed. Unthinkable!

Romans 8:34 - 34 *Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.* Might Jesus now condemn us? Jesus, who died for our sins? Jesus, who was raised to new life for our justification (cf. Romans 4:25)? Jesus, who is now seated at God the Father's right hand interceding for us (cf. Hebrews 7:25; Luke 22:31-32)? How could it be that His intercession would fail? Unthinkable!

The Verdict Called For: In view of all these facts, we may safely conclude that GOD IS FOR US. And we may further conclude that if GOD is FOR US, no one can stand against us. No one can triumph over us; no one can keep us from ultimate salvation.

[DOCTRINAL POINT] Since God is for us, it is unthinkable that He would now bring us under condemnation once again.

[ILLUSTRATION] “Double Jeopardy” is a legal term prohibiting someone who has once been declared innocent from being charged with the same crime a second time. Once your offense has been dealt with, you cannot be brought again to trial for the same offense under our system of laws. To do so would be “double jeopardy.”

[APPLICATION] In this same way, God Himself has declared us not guilty of any sin, based on the once for all sacrifice of Jesus on our behalf. We were guilty, make no mistake! But Jesus paid our penalty at Calvary. God will not again bring us under condemnation, since He has undertaken final salvation for all who are “in Christ.”

(vv.35-37) All that might shake us loose, is for our good - It is unthinkable that God would condemn us, but what about the things that shake us in life? Might one of these things knock us free from His love? **Romans 8:35–37 - 35** *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? 36* *As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.” 37* *No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.* (v.35) The things that shake us: We corporately and individually endure these kinds of trials in our earthly lives. We don't always respond to these things victoriously. But recognize this:

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Often, we say that these things are sent by Satan, but in reality Satan is only the secondary cause; they are actually sent by God as part of His plan to conform us to the image of Christ (cf. 8:29). (v.36) This is affirmed by this quotation from Psalm 44:22 – a Psalm which plainly says God sends trouble on His people even though they have done nothing wrong (cf. Psalm 44:17-19). Would He then permit any of these things to separate us from His love in Christ Jesus (cf. John 10:28-29)? Unthinkable! (v.37) The Apostle now reaches a conclusions that accords perfectly with Romans 8:28 – Since God is working all things for our good, we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

[DOCTRINAL POINT] Nothing we endure in life can cause God to stop loving us.

[ILLUSTRATION] Sometimes our children go through things that cause us much pain on their behalf, but do we ever stop loving them because of this?

[APPLICATION] The loving heart cannot be turned away from the object of its love, because of difficulties suffered. In just this same way, you and I will go through many trials and troubles during our earthly pilgrimage, but nothing we experience can ever separate us from the love of our heavenly Father. Our trials will only endear us to Him even more. We are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

(vv.38-39) The Final Verdict: I am SURE that God’s LOVE will HOLD US FAST – Nothing in all of creation can ever separate us from God’s love in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Romans 8:38–39 - 38** *For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.* Ultimately, our security rests in God’s love for us and Christ’s grace toward us. Nothing can turn God’s love for us to hate. Nothing can overthrow Christ’s work on our behalf. Philippians 1:6 expresses this conclusion classically: **Philippians 1:6 - 6** *And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.*

[DOCTRINAL POINT] No matter what life throws at us; God’s love will hold us fast.

[ILLUSTRATION] What did you do to cause yourself to be born? Unless you are a very unusual example of human life, you had no say at all in your arrival on planet earth. You didn’t choose the time or place. You didn’t select your nationality. You didn’t decide who your parents would be. Your social status. Your intellectual ability. Whether you would be a good athlete or a slug. All you did was show up and cooperate as best you could with what someone else had chosen for you. No one thinks this is unfair. God gets to make those decisions and that’s just the way it is.

[APPLICATION] Just as you did nothing to arrange your arrival on earth, so you did nothing to arrange your eventual arrival in heaven. In each case all you have done is to show up and cooperate as best you can with Someone Greater’s plan for your life. The Father has loved you before time began. The Son died for your sins before you were even born. The Spirit has

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arranged your life so that you could find your way to God and say “yes” to His gracious offer to save you. Would He now change His mind about you? Unthinkable!

Conclusion: Ladies and Gentlemen of the jury, you have heard the facts. What is your verdict?