

WHY THE BELIEVER IS SECURE

Romans 8:31-39

There is so much in the concluding portion of Romans 8 that no man can ever extract it all. It is an inexhaustible mine of divine revelation. In this text Paul declares that the saint of God need not fear anything in the here or in the hereafter. You should not be worried about a circumstance in life. Paul says there is nothing in heaven above, nothing on the earth below, or beneath the earth, nothing in time, nothing in eternity, nothing in outer space, that can overcome the believer and defeat him if he lives in the power of the gospel. Paul, having stated this great truth, gives three fundamental reasons why this is true.

1. He says that the believer has nothing to fear because of God's gracious provision. Then he points out three things that God has done for His people.

(1) God is our PROTECTOR (verse 31). "If God be for us, who can be against us?" There is no doubt in the mind of Paul. He is saying, "Because God is for us, who would be so stupid as to try to prevail against us?" The Psalmist expresses it very well in Psalm 118:6 when he says, "The Lord is on my side, I will not fear. What can man do unto me?" God is the protector of His people.

(2) God is our great PROVIDER (verse 32). "He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?" Paul is arguing very logically: if God would give His greatest, the indescribable and unspeakable gift of His only begotten Son, would He fail to supply those lesser needs that we need as Christians? Paul says, "No, never."

When I bought my first ring I walked out of the jewelry store without the case. I suddenly discovered in my excitement that I had not secured a case. I went back into the store and asked the salesman, "May I have a case for my ring? Is there any charge?"

The salesman said, "Of course not. The case comes with the ring. When you bought the ring you were entitled to the case." This is what Paul is saying. If you have accepted Christ, then you are entitled to all the blessings of God. They are all yours. You are rich in the things that count. He is our protector and our provider.

(3) Paul says that God is our JUSTIFIER (verse 33). "Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth." Does the devil ever accuse you? Of course he does. One of Satan's biblical titles is "the accuser of the brethren." A woman came to me in Forest City and ^{said} ~~said~~, "I must talk to you. I am afraid I am not saved." I said, "Have you repented and believed the gospel and received Christ?" She said, "Absolutely. But doubts arise in my heart." I said, "Do you not realize that the devil is the accuser of the brethren?" She declared she had never heard that and asked if he had ever accused me. I told her he had done so many times. But you see, he cannot accuse and prevail if we believe Romans 8:33. "Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth." The problem arises when we try to justify ourselves rather than to let God exonerate us.

This was the problem of the Pharisees. Jesus said to them, "Ye are they who justify yourselves before men." Sometimes we try to justify ^{ourselves,} our friends, and our children. Man cannot justify himself and should never try. If a man and wife are having trouble in the home, they should not try to justify themselves but arrive at the truth. We should never try to justify ourselves, except in the light of God's will. When God justifies us in salvation we are justified! Not just for a day, but forever. Do not let the devil accuse you. Just kill that voice when it comes, if you have really stood at the cross, repented, and believed. Claim that victory in Christ. Paul says the believer need not fear anything because of the gracious provision of our great God.

II. A second reason Paul gives for the believer not to fear any enemy in this life or in eternity is the total work of Christ. In verse 34 we have a statement of the total work of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. "Who is he that condemneth?

It is Christ that died, yea rather that is risen, who is even at the right hand of God and also maketh intercession for us." This is the apostolic gospel. Christ died, but He also arose again, He ascended into glory, and He ever liveth in heaven to make intercession for His saints. Christ, therefore, is our protection from sin because He died. He is the atonement for sin because He went to the cross. In His resurrection we have the proof of our justification; because, had He just died we would not know whether His sacrifice pleased God or not. But the fact that He arose from the dead is the proof of our justification. The blood of Christ cleanses from all sin. But He not only arose - He ascended into glory where He lives for His people. "He ever liveth," Hebrews 7:25 says, "to make intercession for us." Paul says because of Christ's death for our sins, His resurrection for our justification, and His ascension for our intercession, we need not fear. We are saved and saved forever if we are in Christ. We could not live a moment down here for Him if He were not living for us up there. So we need not fear, Paul says, because of the total work of Christ. Not just part of it, but the total work: His death, His resurrection, His ascension and His intercession.

III. Paul says the believer should not fear any enemy because of Christ's ^{un}in_uconquerable love. In verse 35 Paul asks the question, "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?" He is asking, "Is there any circumstance in human experience, however painful, however pressing; is there anything that can happen to a saint that can really sever him from the great love of Jesus Christ toward him?" You notice Paul is not talking about our love to Him but His love to us. Paul answers, "No, ten thousand times no." He says that through the love of Christ we not only conquer - we are more than conquerors. We are super-conquerors, which means that we turn even our defeats into victories and use them against the enemy. Paul ransacked this whole universe to see if there were any hostile forces or enemies which could sever the child of God from the heart of Jesus Christ. He concludes that there is nothing in heaven above, nothing in the earth below, or beneath the earth, nothing in time or eternity, nothing in outer space, that can sever a child of God from the strong and ^{un}in_uconquerable love of Jesus Christ. The things he mentions in

verses 38 and 39 fall into about five categories.

He says that neither death nor life can separate ^{us} from this love. Jesus Christ is the Lord of life - He is also the Lord of death. In His resurrection He has destroyed the power of death. He begins with death. Death does not separate a Christian from Jesus Christ, it really brings him into His absolute presence. Then he says, "Nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers." This refers to the supernatural powers of evil as spoken of in Ephesians 6. "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood but against principalities, powers, the rulers of darkness in high places." This verse refers to the fallen angels, ^{also} it ~~would~~ refer to the devil, ^{and} it ~~would~~ refer to his demons. Paul says that the devil himself and all the demonic powers of the universe cannot sever you from Christ's love. "Nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers."

Then he says, "Nor things present." This is the dimension of time. We live in trying times - a lot of people have given up - some preachers are among them. There is a great depression in the world today even among Christians and so-called Christians. Though times may become terrible as we come to the rapture of the church, nothing in human experience, even in the 20th century, will be able to sever a child of God from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus.

Nothing present, and then Paul says, "there is nothing in the future." This is the dimension of eternity. Even after this planetary system has been burned, cleansed and rennovated by fire and the new heaven and the new earth appear on the scene, the same Christ who died for us and loved us will be on the throne as our friend and as our lover. We will not be severed from Him in eternity at all.

"Nor height nor depth." The words Paul uses here are very interesting. They have to do with outer space. This word "height" is the word hupsoma, which the astronomers used in reference to the stars' highest point. The word "depth" is the word bathos, which means the lowest point of the star. Paul is saying that the stars in their movement cannot sever

you and cannot work ill upon your life. There is a great revival of interest in Astrology and in the Horoscope today. Some years ago only 100 newspapers carried the Horoscope, but today 1200 publish it. There is a great revival in Witchcraft, the Mediums, and Occultism. Paul would say, "No matter what your Horoscope reads, you need not fear."

Finally he says, "Nor any other creature", literally creation - anything in the universe - (and this closes every loophole) - "Nothing in heaven, nothing on the earth, nothing beneath the earth, nothing in time, nothing in eternity, nothing in space, nothing can separate one saint from the strong love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." It is very difficult for us to ^{comprehend} ~~understand~~ this because we understand love according to our understanding of human love. When you speak of Christ's love, you are speaking of the one unconquerable power of time and eternity. When He loves you He loves you with an everlasting love and will not let you go. That is the glory of His love.

I read that a boy wrote his sweetheart a letter to express his great love. He said, "My dear, I would climb the highest mountain to sit by your side again. I would cross the widest sea just to look into your eyes once more. I would brave the fiercest storm just to hold your hand again. Goodbye dear, (P. S. If it does not rain I will see you Saturday night.)"

That is human love, but it is not the love God has given to us in Jesus ~~and in the cross~~.

Charles Spurgeon saw the words, "God is love" on a weather vane and he was amazed. He said to the farmer, "Those words should not be on a changing weather vane." The farmer said to the great preacher, "You have misinterpreted the words. God is love no matter which way the wind is blowing." Thank God, that is true. His love for us is an everlasting and eternal love. There is nothing in life or death, time or eternity, in space or outer space, that can sever one child of God from that love.

Have you experienced God's love? Have you come to that love that was manifested so dramatically at the cross? The greatest gift in all the world is to receive Christ. In receiving Him you receive this wonderful, transforming love of God. This love will never end. It is a love that will hold you forever and forever.