

ROMANS 8:31

INTRO:

- Vs. 31 begins a new section while still continuing Paul's thought which began at chapter 1:16 and flowing continuously through to 8:39.
- At this point, vs. 31, to the end of the chapter Paul brings to a grand climax the massive doctrinal portion of this great epistle, which began at 1:16.
- Here Paul introduces his great theme, "I am not ashamed of the GOSPEL." And in verse 17 he introduces the great doctrine of justification by faith alone in Christ.
- So, from 1:16 to 8:39 Paul delivers the great doctrines God had revealed to him.
- Paul begins this sub-section by putting forth the opening question, "what shall we say, then proceeds to answer his own question from here to the end of the chapter.
- Paul's common practice has been to boldly state the doctrine, then he anticipates and follows up with certain possible objections, then goes on to answer those objections.
- Chapters 1:16-3:31, doctrine, 4:1 the question, then from there he takes the whole chapter to answer.
- He continues his doctrine in chapter 5 and then the question at 6:1 he again raises the question or objection, then goes on to answer in chapters 6 & 7.
- Again, he starts this method of laying down doctrine at 8:1. "There is no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus."
- Then we see in verses 28-30, the doctrine, then in vs 31 possible objections, then his solid proofs and answers to the questions/objections, 32-39.
- Now, here at verse 31 Paul begins a series of 7 questions.
 - 1) vs. 31 What then shall we say to these things?
 - 2) If God be for us?
 - 3) Who can be against us?
 - 4) vs. 32, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?
 - 5) vs. 33; Who shall bring a charge?
 - 6) Vs. 34 Who *is* he who condemns?
 - 7) vs. 35, Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?
- Paul, having presented probable objection by these 7 questions, he goes on to answer them in vs 32-36, and then makes the ultimate declaration of the glorious truth of the absolute certainty of the final perseverance of all believers, he wraps it all up with the astounding truths in vs. 37-39.

1) WHAT THEN SHALL WE SAY ABOUT THESE THINGS? (WHAT THINGS)

- Now at the end of vs 30 it is as though Paul finishes his powerful and God breathed argument of the gospel of Christ.
- It is as though he lays down his quill, takes a moment to regroup his thoughts and then breaks out again into this glorious and logical response to it all.
- We have here before us in vs 31 the first 3 of the 7 questions.
- What then shall we say, what is our conclusion to all that has been said about the power of the gospel to support, strengthen, comfort and complete our race, especially in the face of trials and sufferings.
- Led by the Spirit, Paul wants us to consider, to think, to reckon on these things, these questions and follow through to answer them. To let them resonate in our minds and hearts.
- What things? The things directly preceding this verse and also in a larger measure, all he has mentioned of the wonderful things God has done for us as seen in chapters 1-8. What shall we say, what is our conclusion?
- What shall we say is not limited or confined to a vocal confession, but more importantly in life to live it.
- We are to walk worthy of the calling which you have been called.

2) IF GOD BE FOR US: US; defined in vs 28.

- This "IF" is basically rhetorical, that is, we could replace it with the word, "since God is for us." No question about it. Once we correctly answer the "if" it becomes a resounding "since."
- Paul's simple and basic answer to, "what shall we then say?" is "since God be for us."
- If God were not for us, we would still be in our sins, dead in sins and to God. But He has quickened us, made us alive in Christ, and seated us in heavenly places with Christ. He gave His only Son, the second Person of the Trinity!
- God was for us long before we were for Him, He was for us when we were against Him, while we were yet enemies.
- If God has set us free from sin and its penalty, death, removed our condemnation, foreknew us, predestined us, called us justified us and glorified us,
- Given us His Spirit, adopted us making us His sons and daughters, made us heirs, heirs of God, joint heirs of Jesus Christ, who or what can prevail over us,
- Paul is really saying, "In view of the fact that God is for us, who, or what can be against us?"
- In short, we have nothing to fear and stand with unfailing confidence in the providence, power and love of God for us!
- God is for us, fear not little flock, it is the Father's good pleasure to give unto you the kingdom. Lk. 12:32
 - Fear not, God is able. Take Courage **Isa. 40:10-18, 21-23, 25,26 28-31.**

3) WHO CAN BE AGAINST US?

- This question has hidden within it the truth that there is a powerful hostility toward the Christian.
- If God before us does not mean we do not have enemies.
- This question opens up the fact that as God's children we do have enemies, this includes suffering.
 - See vs 17, 18.
- Yes, we do have adversaries, trials,
 - Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; 1 Peter 4:12
 - Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. ⁹ So resist him, firm in *your* faith, 1 Peter. 5:8-9
 - Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. Eph. 6:11-12
- Paul's great answer to the Ephesian elders reveals his heart in these things.
 - **Acts 20:22-24**. May we all be like minded. (2 Cor. 12:9-10.)
- But with the presence, authority and sovereignty of God for us, with us, in us, the adversary shall not take our souls, we shall appear in glory with Christ, conformed to His image.
- And these temporary buffetings God will use to prove and conform us and then we shall know the truth, "all things work for good to them that love God, who are the called according to His purpose."
- If God be for us, who can be against us, that is, who or what can rob us of our final arrival at glorification our glorious eternal welcome with God?
- Paus say "no one, nothing."
- A love that is rock solid, a Rock of ages, a love that is unwavering and has secured us to Him forever. For all power has been given to Him...

CONCLUSION:

- Is God for me? Can I answer that in the affirmative, with a confident "yes?"
- If God is not for 0.me, He then is against me.
- How fragile, and uncertain is the life of one who does not have the favor of God, who cannot not say, "God is for me."
- How unnerving, how fearful a place to be, so exposed to life and eternity with out Christ. Surrender to Christ and His beautiful Lordship.
- How wonderful that God is for me, us!
- If I desire to have God for me, I must be for God. Live for God. As we love God being for us, let us love being for God.
- The great take away, GOD IS FOR US! BE ENCOURAGED.
- **Josh. 1:5, 6a, 7,9.**