

The Book of Romans - Part 29

You and I are certainly blessed by being able to study God's Word, and especially as we study through the book of Romans. We're going to see today that God really loves us, and He wants us to know His love, and He wants us to know that we've been delivered, that one of these days we will be totally delivered when we see the Lord. We'll have a new body and we don't have to worry about this flesh causing us problems.

Today we're going to pick up Romans 8:31. In verse 31, it says: *What shall we then say to these things?* In other words, we go back and we start looking at that God has predestined those people who are saved to be conformed to the image of His Son. Paul then starts in verse 31 and says, *What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?*

Knowing the things that we've just looked at according to verses 1-30 in chapter 8, realizing that God is for us, in charge, who will be able to oppose us or to defeat us? And then we go on to look at verse 32 and because God, who did not save His own Son but gave Him up for every one of us who are justified by Him, why wouldn't He freely sacrifice or give us things in its entirety? Notice 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?*

Who is able to accuse God's chosen? His elect? It's God who has made us acceptable or justified in His sight, according to Romans 8:33. It says: *Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.*

If a person could say, "Okay, I'm going to save myself. I'm going to do good works, and I'm going to go to Heaven." And if that person witnesses or tells other people, "Well, you

know, I'm doing good works. I'm going to go to Heaven," well, those people being witnessed to or being told by this one person he's going to Heaven by his own good works, he is going to be accused automatically. Nobody can lay anything to God's elect, those people who have really been saved, those people who have trusted Jesus, but to those people who have not... Can I use this term?... people will see right through them. They won't believe them. They'll simply say, "Well, I'm as good as you are. If you're going to Heaven, I'm going to Heaven."

In other words, it's something that there's no proof. But we have proof as children of God that we are on our way to Heaven because we've trusted Jesus Christ. And in verse 33, it says: *Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.* We are God's elect. We are the chosen of God. In other words, chosen because we have chosen Jesus Christ as our Savior.

Now, in Romans 8:34, it says: *Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.* Christ who died for us is alive and now, as our heavenly lawyer, stands up for us at God's right hand, according to Romans 8:34. He's now our heavenly lawyer who stands before our Heavenly Father. He's there making intercession for us right now.

Verses 35-37, if I could say this, Paul is saying, "Is there anything that can separate us from Christ's love for us? Can anything we go through, including death, separate us from Christ's love?" Let's read 35-37: *³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶As is written, For thy sake we are killed all*

the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. ³⁷Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

Can anything separate us from the love of Christ? And Paul says, "Absolutely not." We are more than victorious because of Christ who loves us. Remember, it's all of Christ. If we had to depend upon ourselves to go to Heaven, then, we of all people are most miserable, because we are not going to Heaven by trusting in anyone or anything other than Jesus Christ. Who can separate us from that love that God has shown us through Jesus Christ? Who can take our salvation away from us? Nobody, because Romans 8:38-39 say: ³⁸ *For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, ³⁹Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

And I believe what Paul is saying here is, "I am absolutely sure there is nothing that can separate us from the love of Christ, either in this life, in death, in anything living, or any being with any kind of influence or powers or anything that is now present or anything that is in the future, no matter how high or low, not any living being, nothing can separate us from Christ.

Now, in conclusion of chapter 8, we see that chapter 8 began with no condemnation, and it ends here with no separation. Nothing can separate us from the love of Christ. The more we understand the grace of God and our so great salvation, the more we will desire to live soberly, righteously, and Godly in this present age so that we might please the God who has done such great things for us. To Him be glory both now and unto the eternal ages.

Titus 2:11-12 says: ¹¹ *For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, ¹²Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world.*

Jude 1:25 says: *To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.*

Man is without excuse because Titus 2:11-12, along with the book of Romans, *says the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men.* Nobody is going to be able to stand before God on that day of judgment. I'm speaking of the White Throne Judgment when all unsaved will be there for judgment. We'll be there but not for judgment for salvation, not to see if we're going to go to Heaven.

Only those people who are being judged there are going to go to Hell. They will have no excuse. They cannot say, "Well, I didn't know. No one ever told me." They won't be able to say that because the Bible teaches us that there is no excuse, that everybody... that all people who had the plan of salvation presented to them... and we studied that in our early chapters how that the heathen are even without excuse, because everybody has the witness of nature and so forth and so on.

So, when a person stands at the White Throne Judgment, the Bible says every mouth is going to be stopped. No one is going to have an excuse. There's not going to be anyone who is able to come up with an answer to say why they did not choose Jesus as Savior.

And if you've never asked Him into your heart, you need to do that because one day you're going to be without excuse. And you're without excuse today, because, once again, we've been going through the plan of salvation all through this study, and you need to ask Jesus Christ to come into your heart.

It's not something to be taken lightly, because your eternal destiny depends on it. You're either going to live with Christ throughout all eternity and bliss and happiness, or you're going to die continually in the deepest, darkest regions of Hell.

Now, as we move into chapter 9 with the conclusion of chapter 8, we see that Paul has completed his description of how God's righteousness was manifested in Christ and the results of such justification. However, some of Paul's readers may have received the impression that God's plan of saving man in Christ apart from the law implies that God has rejected His people, Israel, and the promises made to them. Well, that's not true.

In chapters 9-11, Paul now explains that God has not rejected his people. Paul first expresses his own concern for his fellow Israelites, and we see that in Romans 9:1-2.

Now, Paul's conclusion in this chapter that we're getting ready to study is that God's words of promise were not just to the fleshly descendants of Abraham, as the Jews would have it, but to the faithful remnant of Israel and to the Gentiles who accepted the righteousness which is by faith. The only reason that any of the Israelites were rejected by God was because of their rejection of the Messiah even as Isaiah foretold this. The Messiah, Jesus Christ.

We've all been saved the same way down through the ages. Every saved person is saved the same way, and that is through the accepting of what Jesus has done. And we simply say that those living during Old Testament times look forward to the cross. They are without excuse, those who do not receive what God had said by faith. Remember Abraham believed God. This is even before the law was given. Abraham believed God and it was counted unto him for righteousness. He had faith. He believed what

God said, that His Son was coming into the world. He believed God, and the Bible says he was a saved man.

All down through the ages, man has been saved the same way, and that is through and by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. Some looked forward to the cross; we simply look back. I say "simply." It's not simple but Christ gave His life for us on that cross. He shed his blood for you and me that we could live soberly and righteously according to God's Word we've just studied. We could live the Christian life and know that we're on our way to Heaven, not by living the Christian life, but because we are Christians. We are saved and we are on our way to Heaven.

You can't please God unless you please Him by trusting Jesus. That's His Son. He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. John 3:16.

Have you trusted Him as your Savior? If you haven't done that, you're without excuse. God says, "You must receive my Son, Jesus Christ, in order to go to Heaven."

And if you have done that, you're without excuse if you're not serving Him today. What would God have you do? I don't know your life, but God does, and you need to get into His Word and you need to study and see what God has for you as a saved person to do in this life. We know what He has for you to do in the next life. He wants you to live with Him eternally, and you will live with Him eternally, but what about now? Get in the Word of God and study. He has a job for you to do, Christian, and you need to be serving Him today.

Well, it's been good being with you and I trust that the Word of God is blessing your heart. I know it's blessing my heart as we study, and

we're going to look further next time in the book of Romans in chapter 9.

Until that time, may the Lord bless you richly is my prayer.