

## The Greatness of God (Part 2) Romans 8:31-39

Amidst all of the challenges this year has brought to each one of us (even during those times when we felt forgotten), one promise has never ceased to hold true in our lives: God, in His eternal grace and love is always for us. He really is going to see us through.

God is Generous Towards Us (v31-32)

**verse 31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?**

- What could possibly be meant by **these things**? Since God is for us, who honestly **can be against us**? This is the same God that said in Is 46:9-10: "for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me..."

- Does this mean we will not have adversaries? We know we wrestle against a lot of adversaries. It's just that we have a God who is greater. The fact is, we have a God who goes above and beyond for us. He is a generous God.

**verse 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?**

- God is so generous that **he did not** (even) **spare his own son**. The word for spare (φείδομαι) means a complete non-abstaining. The way this was expressed was a complete **giving him up** (παροδίδωμι - to give over to the power of another) of His only begotten, beloved Son. If he gave us his only Son, we can believe that he will **graciously give** (χαρίζομαι - freely bestow on us favour) us what we need.

God Protects Us (v33-36)

**verse 33 Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. v34 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.**

- The point here is that the penalty has already been paid. There is now no **condemnation** for those who are in Christ. It is he who justifies & pardons.

- This is our safeguard. **Jesus is the one who died**. Even **more than that** (μᾶλλον - to a greater degree), he **raised from the dead**. Take it even further: he is at a place of authority (**the right hand of God**). He is now **interceding** (ἐντυγχάνω - to consult on one's behalf) for us.

**verse 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?**

- The **who** might be referring to Satan who is the prince of the power of the air and the god of this age. However, it also refers to the litany of opposition who at certain points in our lives, take a job at our souls. Will any of these things **separate** (χωρίζω - divorce or divide) us from Christ's love?

**verse 36 As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered."**

- This is Ps 44:22. The reality is that God's sovereign will might be for us to be destroyed by our enemies. Matt 5:10-12 tells us it is a blessing to suffer and be persecuted for the sake of righteousness. That is the application of this principle. It doesn't matter what the outcome on earth is because we know how all of this ends. This truth has to be enough for us sometimes.

God Loves Us (v37-39)

**verse 37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.**

- The answer to these questions is No! Only God's greatness can lead those who are designated as "sheep to be slaughtered" to make the claim "**we are more than conquerors**." It is only because of **him who** (first) **loved us** that we can be more than conquerors through **all the things** that life brings. Human energy cannot provide the adequate assistance to make us more than **conquerors** (ὑπερνικάω - super victorious).

**verse 38 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, v39 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.**

- These verses pick up where v35 left off. Paul says, "**I am sure**" meaning he is (πίθω) convinced and persuaded...and not just in his head, but in his heart. This is a deep conviction.

- Christ, in his love, has promised that nothing—not **death, life, angels/principalities** (whom we feel inferior to, or maybe even fear), **things present** (those current circumstances we have a tendency to magnify), **things to come** (the future things we can't see), **powers** (things we might not be able to explain at times), **height** (the lofty things such as our vast universe), **depth** (maybe the lower parts of the earth), **nor anything else in all creation** can get in the way of the love the Son has for us.

## The Greatness of God (Part 2) Romans 8:31-39

Amidst all of the challenges this year has brought to each one of us (even during those times when we felt forgotten), one promise has never ceased to hold true in our lives: God, in His eternal grace and love is always for us. He really is going to see us through.

God is Generous Towards Us (v31-32)

**verse 31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?**

- What could possibly be meant by **these things**? Since God is for us, who honestly **can be against us**? This is the same God that said in Is 46:9-10: "for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me..."

- Does this mean we will not have adversaries? We know we wrestle against a lot of adversaries. It's just that we have a God who is greater. The fact is, we have a God who goes above and beyond for us. He is a generous God.

**verse 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?**

- God is so generous that **he did not** (even) **spare his own son**. The word for spare (φείδομαι) means a complete non-abstaining. The way this was expressed was a complete **giving him up** (παροδίδωμι - to give over to the power of another) of His only begotten, beloved Son. If he gave us his only Son, we can believe that he will **graciously give** (χαρίζομαι - freely bestow on us favour) us what we need.

God Protects Us (v33-36)

**verse 33 Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. v34 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.**

- The point here is that the penalty has already been paid. There is now no **condemnation** for those who are in Christ. It is he who justifies & pardons.

- This is our safeguard. **Jesus is the one who died**. Even **more than that** (μᾶλλον - to a greater degree), he **raised from the dead**. Take it even further: he is at a place of authority (**the right hand of God**). He is now **interceding** (ἐντυγχάνω - to consult on one's behalf) for us.

**verse 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?**

- The **who** might be referring to Satan who is the prince of the power of the air and the god of this age. However, it also refers to the litany of opposition who at certain points in our lives, take a job at our souls. Will any of these things **separate** (χωρίζω - divorce or divide) us from Christ's love?

**verse 36 As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered."**

- This is Ps 44:22. The reality is that God's sovereign will might be for us to be destroyed by our enemies. Matt 5:10-12 tells us it is a blessing to suffer and be persecuted for the sake of righteousness. That is the application of this principle. It doesn't matter what the outcome on earth is because we know how all of this ends. This truth has to be enough for us sometimes.

God Loves Us (v37-39)

**verse 37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.**

- The answer to these questions is No! Only God's greatness can lead those who are designated as "sheep to be slaughtered" to make the claim "**we are more than conquerors**." It is only because of **him who** (first) **loved us** that we can be more than conquerors through **all the things** that life brings. Human energy cannot provide the adequate assistance to make us more than **conquerors** (ὑπερνικάω - super victorious).

**verse 38 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, v39 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.**

- These verses pick up where v35 left off. Paul says, "**I am sure**" meaning he is (πίθω) convinced and persuaded...and not just in his head, but in his heart. This is a deep conviction.

- Christ, in his love, has promised that nothing—not **death, life, angels/principalities** (whom we feel inferior to, or maybe even fear), **things present** (those current circumstances we have a tendency to magnify), **things to come** (the future things we can't see), **powers** (things we might not be able to explain at times), **height** (the lofty things such as our vast universe), **depth** (maybe the lower parts of the earth), **nor anything else in all creation** can get in the way of the love the Son has for us.

R O M A N S  
*God, Grace, and Culture*

R O M A N S  
*God, Grace, and Culture*