

If God Be For Us (Rom 8:31-39)

I. New sub-section

A) This is the last sub-section in ch 8:

1. This closes out not only ch 8, but the overall section that began in Rom 1:16
2. This sub-section is the “therefore” that applies to v.28-30, but also to the entire section
3. This ends the doctrinal part of the epistle
 - i. Rom ch 9-11 is doctrinal, but it is in answer to the objection that might be raised concerning national Israel

B) Paul’s method is to state a thing positively, then work it out, including proof texts from the O/T

1. He also answers objections he foresees all along the way:
 - i. As in 4:1, 6:1, 6:15, 7:7, 7:13
2. Here in Rom 8:31-39 Paul closes out his teaching with a series of questions/objections
 - i. Raising questions, or “questioning a passage” is a very profitable manner of bible study

C) Questions

1. There are basically 6:
 - i. V.31- “What shall we say to these things?”
 - a) Again, this refers most directly to what he has said in v.28-30, but extends to the entire teaching on the salvation of God begun at 1:16
 - ii. V.31- “If God be for us, who can be against us?”
 - iii. V.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?”
 - iv. V.33- “Who shall lay anything to the charge of God’s elect?”
 - v. V.34- “Who is he that condemneth?”
 - vi. V.35- “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?”
 - a) The rest of the things listed as questions after this are all just part of this overall question
 - i. Rom 8:38-39- This is Paul’s grand conclusion of the entire matter from the beginning of 1:16
2. We can put these 6 into a series of 4 potential problems for the child of God:
 - i. Is there any power that can possibly arise to prevent the child of God from arriving at final glory? (v.31)

- ii. Can God's love toward us ever end or be changed or diminished?(v.32)
- iii. Is there anything or anyone that can finally, in the end, convict us of sin? (v.33-34)
- iv. Can we ourselves be the cause of alteration to or loss of our final salvation? (v.35)

II. Rom 8:31- The 1st question/objection

A) Having stated the doctrine as he did in v.28-30, we are left with the question, "If God is actively doing all this, is there any power greater than God that might thwart His purposes?"

- 1. "If"- since, because
- 2. "These things"- refers to v.28-30, but really to the work of God in the plan of salvation as a whole, worked out from 1:16:
 - i. Our sinful and lost condition (ch 1b-3a)
 - ii. Justification by faith in Christ alone (ch 3b-5a)
 - iii. Union with Christ (ch 5b)
 - iv. Work of the Holy Spirit in sanctification (ch 8a)
 - v. God's election (ch 8b)

B) The greatness of God is truly the source of all assurance

- 1. We can have assurance in our son-ship because He is able
 - i. 1 John 4:4- "Greater is He that is in you...."
- 2. Paul is not saying that we go to heaven unopposed; he states elsewhere that there are mighty forces arrayed against us (Eph 6:12-18)
 - i. But the source of confidence is in the power and greatness of God
 - a) After all, we would still be dead in sin if God was not Almighty
 - b) Matt 12:22-30- The Stronger Man
- 3. The O/T is full exactly this type assurance:
 - i. Gen 15:1
 - ii. Psa 27
 - iii. Psa 46
 - iv. Isa 40:10-31
 - v. 2 Kings 18-19- Hezekiah and Sennacherib
 - vi. 1 Sam 17- David and Goliath