

THE BOOK OF ROMANS

"If God Be For Us"

Romans 8:31

Introduction

1. God's people need hope and support. The times in which we live call for moral and spiritual strength. This can only be gained by knowing God's purpose for the child of God. This will hold things together for anyone who is truly redeemed.

2. Romans 8 has long been a favorite of earnest believers. It really overwhelms one and boggles the mind. It is the climax of three chapters (6-8). Here Paul stops to breathe in the midst of his enormous words and asks: "What shall we say then to these things?" The things he is concerned about are the contents of the previous verses, particularly from v. 12. The same sort of question has previously been raised (4:1; 6:1, 15).

3. The reply of the apostle is the text for this study. Two short and powerful thoughts are given:

1. GOD FOR US!

a. Falsified. There are times when this cannot be assumed. God is not for the person who just claims the fact. This certainly was true of Israel at Ai (Josh. 7), in the days of Jeremiah (Jer. 38), and of the Pharisee in the New Testament (Luke 18:9-14). To assume God's presence, there must be solid grounds. These falsified them.

b. Testified. The condition here is first class in the Greek. It is assumed true. It is a settled condition. It is a foregone conclusion. There is no doubt or perplexity here. It is best to render it: "since God is for us...." The context is chock-o-block full of evidence that this is the case. For example, there is the ministry of the Holy Spirit to the child of God (vv. 10, 11, 13, 14, 16, 26). Then comes the matter of adoption and heirship (vv. 14-17). The declared purpose of grace is also important (vv. 29-30). Strong security is another (vv. 35-39).

c. Exemplified v. 32. Here is a concrete statement of the fact that God is "for" (Greek: over) the believer. Two items are provided:

1) By giving His Son. God did not withhold His own Son, but delivered Him over for our sins. That demonstrates how much God is for us. The whole matter of Abraham and Isaac comes to the fore in this (Gen. 22:2, 12, 16). This shows that God does not have to be appeased by sacrifice. He has already given! What a word!

2) By giving all things. Two words stand out: "with Him" and "also." It is in the Lord Jesus Christ that the all things come. This is on top of the giving of the Son in the first place. It brings to mind 1 Cor. 3:21-23. It shows that all the riches belong to us: riches of mercy (Eph. 2:4), of grace (Eph. 1:7), and of glory (3:16). They are the "unsearchable riches" which come in Him (3:8). The words of the Lord are worthy at this point (Mark 10:29, 30).

NOTE: Seeing God only in nature shows He is above us. To see Him in providential activities is viewing Him beyond us. To see God in respect to Christ is to know One of grace. This jars our very beings! Oh, to say with David that this: "God is our God forever and ever" (Psa. 48:14).

2. WHO AGAINST US?

a. Distinguished. Grammatically, the rendering should be "what thing" can be against us. Hence, both animate and inanimate items could be included. In the context, there are many items noted: condemnation (v. 1), sin (v. 2), the flesh (v. 8), suffering (v. 18), corruption (v. 21), pain (v. 22), and infirmity (v. 26). But all of this is nothing when He is considered "for us."

b. Determined. All have felt the stroke of antagonism. Christ did (the cross!). So did Stephen (Acts 7), Antipas (Rev. 2:13), and others (Heb. 11:32-37). But all of this was short of the ultimate goal (Matt. 10:28). Satan is the crucial test (1 Pet. 5:8). All ultimately fails (Matt. 16:18). All the counsel of hell cannot conquer!

c. Defended. This is the thrust of the phrase. The former being true (a first class condition), then there is no one or no thing which could triumph over the child of God. What a glorious and triumphant word of encouragement! The matter deals with everything spiritual, moral, mental, psychological, and whatever! The child of God is virtually assured aggression, but he has the promise of victory. Glory!

Conclusion The world is breaking up. The moral code is gone. Education has become anti-God. Industry is for itself and monetary gain. Labor is right on their heels. Nowhere in society today is there comfort for the weary. Thank God, the believer looks to God. There and there alone is the assurance of ultimate triumph and victory. Blessed be His glorious Name.