

Exegetical Notes - Romans 8:31-39

“Exultant Living”

Prepared by Charles H. Jensen, Pastor, Cornerstone Fellowship

101 Kyllies Road, Coatesville, PA 19320

610-384-1375

charleshjensen@aol.com

Romans 8:31-39

Verses 31-32

What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?³² He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

- Given all that has been said and the declaration that “in all things God works for the good of those who love him,” what conclusion can we draw? Paul asks three specific proofs to answer the “what then shall we say in response to these things” question.
- The first proof is found in answer to the question, “If God is for us, who can be against us.”
- The word here translated “if” is better translated “BECAUSE.” The phrase is not in any way conditional. “Because God is for us,” who can stand against us. This is the first question in Paul’s argument.
- The answer is that no one can stand against us and the proof of that is found in the fact that God gave the life of his only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to save us from death. Therefore, we know that God works on our behalf to give us everything that we need. God gave his Son to provide for our salvation.

Verses 33-35

Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies.³⁴ Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

- The second proof is found in the answer to the question “who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen.” Charges can be brought, and are brought, against God’s children, but they cannot stand.

- They cannot stand because God’s children are justified by God. He is our judge, and He sent his son to die in our place so that our transgressions are forgiven and forgotten.
- Now, Jesus himself who is risen from the dead intercedes with God for us. (see Hebrews 7:15 and 1 John 2:1-2) No charge brought against a child of God will stand in God’s court because Jesus himself is our defense.

Verses 35-39

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ³⁶ As it is written: “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- The third proof is found in the answer to the question, “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ.”
- Paul suggests possible separators: “trouble, hardship, persecution, famine, nakedness, danger, and/or the sword.”
- He then quotes Psalm 44:22. The entire psalm concerns the plight of God’s children in a hostile world. God’s children are afflicted by suffering simply because they are loyal to God, but even in those afflictions they are not separated from the love of God.
- Paul says that the separators he listed are ineffective. He then provides couplets of opposites: “life & death”, “angels & demons,” “the present & the future,” “height & depth.” He declares that no power, nor anything, in all creation can separate us from God’s love in Christ Jesus.
- Paul’s responding conclusion is that for those who are in Jesus, God works for good.

(These exegetical notes are the foundational study for the sermon entitled *Exultant Living*. They have been prepared by the Reverend Doctor Charles H. Jensen, Interim Senior/Lead Pastor at Cornerstone Fellowship, Coatesville Pennsylvania. All rights are reserved by *Cornerstone Fellowship* & The Reverend Doctor Charles H. Jensen. They are used here by permission.)