

Monday, October 2, 2023 ■ Read Romans 8:31–34

Questions from the Scripture text: With what question does v31 begin this series of questions? What do believers know about God's relation to them? What rhetorical question expects what answer in v31? What (Whom!) hasn't God spared (v32)? What has God done with His Son? What else will He give? In what way? What question does v33 ask? About Whom, specifically, is it asking this; and, what is He doing rather than bringing charges? What question does v34 ask? About Whom specifically is it asking this? What two things has He already done? Where is He now? What is He doing there? For whom?

What should a Christian say about his life? Romans 8:31–34 looks forward to the midweek sermon. In these four verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **a Christian is someone who should say that everything in time and space is coalescing for his good.**

Nothing is against us, v31. This isn't just that nothing can succeed against us. It is that nothing is fundamentally against us. Even people who intend to be against us cannot help but fulfill whatever God intends for us. God is for us, and He works all things according to the counsel of His own will (cf. Eph 1:11). Even if someone close to us betrayed us and intended evil against us, God was intending it for good. THAT's what "we shall say to these things"!

All things are ours, v32. All things must be ours by *comparison of love*. God already gave that which is infinitely more than everything else together: His Son! OF COURSE the love that gave us Jesus is giving us all other things! All things must be ours by *obligation of justice*. God has given us His Son, and in His Son, His righteousness. OF COURSE the justice that is satisfied with us in Jesus will *demand* that He and we would be rewarded with all things!

God is our Justifier, v33. v31 already said that "God is for us," summarizing what God has been doing throughout the entire history of the creation (cf. v15–25). Now v33 says that God is for us in another way: He is our advocate. In God's court, there is no other judge. God is Judge. And God is Prosecutor. He lays the charges. But He is also the expert Witness Who has examined all of the evidence, then takes His seat as Judge and declares, "righteous!" There will be no charges against those whom God has justified.

Christ is our Intercessor, v34. He is our defense Attorney. And He doesn't just make a case on our behalf. He *offers Himself* as the case on our behalf. He has died, taking our guilt in full seriousness and satisfying the punishment accordingly. He has risen again, demonstrating that the payment has been received. And now, He has approached the bench—ascending to the right hand of God, where He presents Himself as our case, interceding for us.

These are the things that we say to our current life in this groaning creation: nothing is against us, all things are ours, God is our Justifier, and Christ is our Intercessor. What a joyous life ours will be, if we learn to speak according to the reality of what God is doing in history, and what relationship God has given us to Himself.

Who is for you? What things does this mean are for you? On the last day, who will be laying charges against the wicked? What will He be doing for those who believe in Christ? What will Christ be doing? For His own?

Sample prayer: Father, thank You for giving us Your Son, our Lord Jesus, so that we may know that Your love and Your justice both demand that every possible good be done unto us. Help us believe this by Your Spirit, we ask through Christ, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP1 "How Blessed the Man" or TPH457 "Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness"

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(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Romans 8, verse 31 through 34. These are God's words. What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own son. But delivered him up for us. All How shall he not with him? Also freely.

Give us all things. Who shall bring a charge against God's elected as God. You're justifies. It was he who condemns? Christ, who died? And furthermore, it's also resin. There's even at the right hand of God who also, Makes intercession for us.

So far the reading of God's inspired and in there and twerk. The Lord know asks the series of rhetorical questions. To drive home the point. That not only do we, Grown forward. To the day of our glorification, the redemption of our body. The resurrection, when we will be conformed to Christ's soul and body perfectly.

But we grown forward with hope. With eagerness and perseverance that. Are sure to attain our goal because we know That. What God is always doing in everything. Is aiming at, and bringing us to That day.

And so on the series of rhetorical questions, They have obviously. Implied answers. That the Lord asks them so that we will ask them of ourselves. First. What then shall we say to these things? And what we should say, is that God is for us. Nothing can be against us.

God is really giving us all things. No one can bring a charge against us. God justifies us. No one can condemn us. Christ. Interseeds for us. And so we have You know, this great big long list. Of things that we can say in answer. To the sufferings of this present time.

Things that we can say and answer to. Are frustration. With things in the creation, the way, it is things with our others in this world, the way. They are. Things with ourselves, the way we are. What can we say? We can say the at first, God is for us.

The if God is for us as another one of those ifs, that is really a sense. Since God is for us. Who can be against us? And the answer, of course, is no one. And not just they're not strong enough to succeed against us. But even Even if they intend to be against us, they're not actually against us because there's a, will, that is overruling.

There will This is similar in theme to Uh, one of our favorite texts and Genesis 50 and verse 20, You intended it for evil but God intended it for good. Even when the wicked intended enmity to us, There is another will operating. There's another intention operating. And it operates at a more fundamental and powerful level.

God is for us. And so, he intends our good even And whatever the wicked wickedly intend. God and his goodness. Intends. For good. So, they may intend evil against us but they cannot actually Be against us. And so far as God uses them over against their own intentions. For our good.

Goddess for us. No one. Nothing is against us. Which by the way, if you've ever had that wicked Grumbling murmur of the heart. Where we say, everything's against me. It is exactly opposite of the truth for a Christian. If everything is against you, you have huge problems because that means God is against you and you are not in Christ.

If you're in Christ. You have no, right? To let your flesh come through and say, everything is against me. By the Spirit, you put to death that deed of the body. And you say everything is for me. Because God rules and over rules. All things. Verse 32. We have an argument from God's power.

Sorry, not God's power from God's love and from god's justice. That all things are for us. First, in both have the same evidence that they present first. He who did not spare his own son. But delivered him up for us all house, shall he not with him also freely?

Give us all things. God's love. Which was so great to us. That he gave his son. Who is more than everything in all of creation and all of time? God loved us so much that he gave him. Surely his love intends on giving everything else together with him. So, that's an argument from god's love.

But there's also an argument from god's justice. Because his son whom. He gave for us. Has become our righteousness. And the justice of god. Responding to the perfection of the righteousness of the sun insists demands. That for those for whom christ, is their worthiness. They would receive all things because that is what christ is worthy of.

And so if god has joined us to his son, And made us righteous with his son's righteousness. Now his justice demands that all things work together, perfect. And so by two divine perfections. That are joined in the gift of his son, we can say. God's divine love. Is determined.

To give me everything good. And god's divine justice. Dead man's. That i get. Everything. Good. So what can we say? We could say, God is for us. Nothing is against us. God has determined to give everything. Uh, give all things to us. Uh, god demands that. All things be for us before are good.

No one can charge me verse 33 now. Who shall bring a charge against God's elect. Seriously god. Has justified us. He does justify us, he declares us righteous. Because someone going to, Is something going to question the judge's opinion? Well, of course not. No one else is allowed to talk and god's court.

He is the prosecution, he is the defense. He is the jury. He knows all the evidence. He is the judge who gives all the verdicts. And so, since god, Has justified us in christ. Because we just as we were just now considering In verse 32, giving us a son.

When we are sure. That we cannot be charged by anyone because got himself is not charging us. He has vindicated us, he has declared us. Innocent.

And then, No one can condemn us. We know this, of course, Already from the beginning of the chapter there is therefore now. No condemnation. For those who are in christ jesus, but jesus is the one who condemns of the last He's the one who gives the verdict and makes the sentence.

All judgment has been given into his hands. But what has he done? Well, he has died. And so there can be no condemnation for us because the debt that he died. He died. Under a condemnation. For our sin. But he hasn't just died. He Rows again from the dead.

It's christ who died verse 34. And furthermore also as resent, And so, not only does. Is he himself the one who has Uh, taken our condemnation who has made the payment, And so there's no condemnation left for us. But he, He was delivered up on account of our transgressions or an account of our sins was raised on account of our justification.

It is. He himself. Is the evidence that we cannot be condemned. And not only does he present himself in glory. Verse 34 continued. Who is even at the right hand of god. But what he does there. As the one who has returned for us. The one who is the living group Of our justification.

What he does there is, he makes intercession for us, he pleads The merit, who pleads the worthiness. Of his sacrifice. And if his righteousness, On our behalf. Who is he? Who condemns? This guy's who died. Furthermore also has raised under his even at the right hand of god. Who also makes intercession for us.

So no one can condemn me christ, intercedes from it. So what shall we say? When we're suffering with our sin, we're suffering in this broken down and corrupt world. There were suffering, even at the hands of the wicked who have wicked intentions to us. Here are some things to say goddess for us.

No one can be against us. God has given me, jesus. God's love is determined to do all things for my good. God's justice demands that all things work together for my good. No one can bring a charge against me. God justifies me. No one can condemn me, christ's intercedes for me.

We have. A powerful. List of things that we can say. To these things. The holy spirit to give us to lay hold. Of these truths as reality. And say these things in the face of all suffering. Let's pray. My father in heaven.

We asked that your spirit would help us. For, we know our weakness generally and we thank you. That even in the wisdom and timing of your providence. We are brought now at Um, an exhaustion of Energy, our ability. So that we might know all the more our dependence upon you.

So help us by your spirit. To speak rightly. About the reality of your providence to us. That we would. Know that we suffer together with christ. And that those who suffer together with him. Shall surely. The glorified together with them and inherit together with them. And so give us that confidence.

From these wonderful historical facts. Theological truths. Where we ask it in jesus name? Amen.