

Romans 8:28–39

“Why We’re So, So, So, So, So, So, Sure of God’s Everlasting Love”

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Why can believers be sure of God’s love? Pastor leads his family in today’s “Hopewell @Home” passage. Romans 8:28–39 prepares us for the opening portion of the morning public worship on the coming Lord’s Day. In these twelve verses of holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that our certainty of God’s love for us comes from: its being determined in eternity so that it cannot be undone in time; its being determined in the Creator so that it cannot be undone in the creation; its being inextricable from the glory of the Son that God is committed to it with equal commitment; God having already given what is infinitely more valuable than everything else put together; His law now demanding what His love has eternally desired; and, the presently victorious reality of our union with Christ. **HOW SURE** the believer may be that he is loved with everlasting love!

Tuesday, August 10, 2021 • Romans 8:28–39

Questions from the Scripture text: Which things do we know work together for good (v28)? To whom do they work together for good? What did God also do to those whom He foreknew (29a)? To what did He predestine them (29b)? For what reason (29c)? What did He do for those whom He predestined (30a)? What did He do for those whom He called (30b)? What did He do for those whom He justified (30c)? Who is for us (31)? Who can (successfully) be against us? What (Whom!) did God not spare (32a)? What did God do with His Son for us? What will God give to us together with Him? What does God do instead of bringing a charge against His elect (33)? What does Jesus do, instead of condemning us (34)? What are some of the things that are not able to separate us from the love of Christ (35, 38-39)? What is one of the reasons that such things happen (36)? So, what is going on in the midst of these things (37)?

Next week’s Call to Worship, Prayer for Help, Song of Adoration, and Prayer of Confession all come from Romans 8:28–39, so that we will see that we are singing God’s thoughts after Him with *Loved with Everlasting Love*.

All things must work together for our good. Nothing can separate us from God’s love. These are truths that make hearts swell up with joy and praise.

And we see here what marvelously sure truths they are.

God’s love is sure, because it goes back before time. God “foreknowing” His elect is not some form of divine cheating by sneaking a peek at the end. It’s talking about knowing in terms of a relationship: He loved us before the world began (cf. Eph 1:3-6). It was this love, that He simply decided to set upon us, that led to our being predestined. A love that is from eternity cannot be undone by anything that occurs in time.

God’s love is sure, because it is in Christ and for His sake. God loves the glory of His Son, and He has determined that for the Son’s great glory, He would be displayed as the firstborn of many brothers and sisters who have been shaped to look like Him. We’re predestined to bring Christ glory!

God’s love is sure, because His law now demands that it continue. We have been justified with Christ’s righteousness. The One who makes the charges at the judgment is the One who has justified us (33). The One who condemns at the judgment is the One who has taken our condemnation and is continually pleading our case (34).

God’s love is sure, because its most infinite gift has already been given, and it is irrational to think that anything else could possibly be held back (32).

There are many things that come into our lives that threaten to shake our joy in God’s love. But, when we consider them in the light of the teaching in these verses, that threat quickly dissolves.

We realize, instead, that even if we are like sheep being slaughtered, it is for His sake. It is because we are joined to Him in that love from which we can never be separated. It is most certain that this love will prevail with us, and that we will prevail in the trial. Even before the trial ends, we can know already that we are more than conquerors!

Election and predestination are not dry, dusty doctrines for theological fuddy-duddies. They are the foundation of sure, victorious love!

In what current circumstance do you most need to cling to the cross and electing love?

Sample prayer: Our electing, glorious, righteous, and generous God, we praise You for investing the glory of Your Name, and the glory of Your Son, in our salvation. Forgive us for undercutting our own assurance by making our salvation about ourselves. Thank You for so identifying us with Yourself that we may know that even if we are slaughtered, it is for your sake. And grant unto us to see always that inseparable love with which You have loved us in Christ, through whom we ask it, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP130 “Lord, from the Depths to You I Cried” or TPH483 “Loved with Everlasting Love”

For more Hopewell @Home devotionals, please visit bit.ly/harpCHAH

(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 referenced above)

Romans 8 verses 28 through 39. These are God's words and we know that all things work together for good to those who love God to those, who are the called. According to his purpose for him.

He foreordained you. He also predestined to be conformed, to the image of his son, that he might be the first born among many brothers. Moreover, whom he predestined these, he also called, and he called these, he also justified. And he justified these he also glorified 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 will he not with him? Also freely? Give us all things who shall bring a charge against God's elect, it is God who justifies he was? He who condemns it is Christ who died.

And furthermore is also risen is even at the right hand of God who also makes intercession for us who shall separate us from the love of Christ, shall tribulation, or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or parallel or sword as it is written for your sake. We are killed all day long.

We're accounted as sheep for the slaughter yet in all these things, we are more than overcome through him. Who loved us foreordained, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities nor powers nor things present, nor things to come, no height nor depth nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ.

Jesus, our Lord. And then thus far the reading of God's inspired and an errant word. All things must work together. For our good verse 28, nothing can separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus, our Lord verse 39, the beginning and end of this passage and indeed everything in between some of the, some of the most favorite versus in the whole Bible, some of the most precious truths and every situation, what a blessing it is for you to be able to know that God is working it for your good and when everything else seems against you what a blessing to know that it hasn't wedged, a millimeter of separation between you and the love of God which is still firmly completely attached to you.

So there are multiple reasons why we know that God's love is sure. And that all things must work together for our good, God's love is sure. First of all because it begins in eternity says, we know that all things work together for good to those who love God to those who are the call according to his purpose and some would say ah to those who love God.

See it's conditional all things work together for good. If you love God, but that's not it at all. Is it says, how can it be that we have come to love God for the last chapter going back to the middle of chapter seven? He's talking about how wretched we are and how nothing good at all ever comes from us.

And now, he recognizes in verse 28, that there are people who actually love God. How did that happen? Well, they were called according to his purpose. And so, he traces back the purpose according to, which they were called and he traces it all the way back out of time into eternity in.

God himself for whom he foreordained you. He also predestined to become to be conformed to the image of a son that he might be the first one among many brothers. So it's about the glory of the sun as desired by the father within the trinity from all eternity and those who whom he predestined.

He also called aha. That's where the calling and verse 28 came from. And this decree within God, that verse 30 is describing Lizzie called if it starts at outside of time, it can't be stopped by anything in time. And so it's an unstoppable progression for new predestined called justified.

If you're a believer in Jesus and this life, that's the one you're on. But glorified is described this past tense here because it's just a certain. Every category has the exact same number. The exact same people in it. Those whom preordained, you exact same number the exact same people as those who need predestined.

Those who be destined to be conformed to the image of sun, exact same number, exact same people's those, whom he called those who he called exact same, number exact, same people. As those who come to faith in Christ and are justified through faith in Christ, those whom he justified, exactly number, exact same people as those who shall last be glorified, so that they have been conformed to Jesus.

And he is the first born among many brethren. So you can't be separated from the love of God because it comes from outside of time and nothing in time can undo what God has determined from outside of time. It comes from within the creator himself. God, there's nothing in the creatures.

Even you that can stop something that has been determined within the creator. And so your love your having

the love of God is as sure as God himself is source, God's love is sure because it is in Christ. And for his sake God loves the glory of his son.

The triune God has love and fellowship and commitment in himself from all eternity. This is one way that we know that the biblical doctrine of the trinity which is taught in many places. Not the least of which and the passage that gives us the name into which you were to be baptized the name of the father, and of the son and of the Holy Spirit.

That's one name of a triune God. And there are other passages that show this thing. But one of the ways that we know, theologically that it has to be true is because God cannot be needy. And if in order to love or if in order to be adored, or if an order to enjoy fellowship or commitment that God would have to create that was that would be a needy.

God. No wonder then. Lacking the trinity, the the Muslim idol that tries to be amount of theistic. God can't have a God at all and certainly can't have a god of love. But the triune God is God of love, and he, especially loves himself, which isn't selfish because he's God and it's actually generous that he created others who can love him and be loved by him, but he, especially loves himself.

He, especially loves his glory the father, especially loves the glory of the son, and the son, especially loves the glory of the father and the father is as determined to keep loving you. As he is, that his son would be glorified because he has invested the glory of his son.

As the first born among many brethren in your being adopted, as one of those brethren. And so, God's love for, you is sure because it's from outside of time, got slow for you as you were, because it comes from the commitment of the father to glorify his son and God's love is sure because he's already given the very greatest thing in his love and he will give everything else in his love.

He who did not spare his own son but delivered him up for us. All hustle, you know, with him also freely, give us all things. Jesus is infinitely. More than all things put together and God has already given you in. He's talking with old anything else from you. Anything else?

Good. God's love is sure because his law demands that you be loved. So that also kind of comes from that verse. Because if he delivered Christ up for us all, then Christ is the one who is our worthiness and now his law demands that we receive everything that has love as desired to give us as law.

His love desire, to give it to us. His love gave us Christ Christ is now our worthiness so that which has law began. His love began desiring as law. Now demands on our behalf because Christ is our righteousness and we see this in the courtroom where that law is applied.

You have as the judge God. And so he says who shall bring a charge against God's elect and is God who justifies. So the judges already saying righteous who is he who condemns? Well the or I guess God is the prosecutor in Christ as the judge in this illustration Christ isn't going to condemn us.

Why? Because he's busy being our defense attorney. He is Christ, who died. Furthermore is risen. Is that the right hand of God making intercession for us? So, he's bleeding our case. He's not gonna condemn us. And so you see how the judge in the prosecutor and the law in, in God's court, as I was, were in this courtroom, seen our all demanding that you keep receiving the love of God, so, God's love for you is sure because it comes from all eternity, God's love for, you is sure because it is a sure as the commitment of the father to the glory of the sun, God's love for you is sure because he's already given you that which is infinitely more valuable than everything else.

Put together, God's love for, you is sure because his law demands that it continue God's love for. You is sure because you are in Christ who shall separate us from the love of Christ, it is for his sake. That we are killed all day long. If we are killed, only long verse 36.

So, even if you have great trouble or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or parallel or sword, the reason is that you're in Christ. And your conquering in him in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us and the love of God for us is in verse 39 Christ.

Jesus our Lord. So, God's love for us is in Christ and notice this Christ is God, because verse 35 begins who shall separate us from the love of Christ. But then verse 39 concludes, none of these things are able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus, our Lord very plain, isn't it?

That the God who loves us in verse 39 is the Christ who loves us in verse 35. And the Christ who loves us in verse 35 is the God who loves us in verse 39, our God, our creator became a man so that we could be joined to him through faith.

And we the love of God cannot be separated from us because it isn't him and he's done that to secure it for us. First thought, let's pray.

Are trying God father, son and holy spirit. We thank you and praise you. That you have. So loved us in yourself from outside of time. And then in time have done all these things that we might be so. So sure that we have been loved with everlasting love, not just to everlasting, but even from everlasting, I pray for these, my children that they would be sure of your love and that that certainty would especially come from, who you are, father, son and Holy Spirit.

And what you have done, especially in your redemption, coming into this world in the person of the son, adding humanity to yourself as the Lord Jesus. So that we might be joined to you through faith and out of this, certainty of your love. We pray that you would give us confidence to be more than conquerors even under persecution or distress or famine demonic attack, even under death.

Grant that we would love not our lives unto death knowing that you love us. So that we may sing at the last we have overcome and by the blood of the lamb. And by the word of the Lord, nothing has separated us from the love of God. That is in Christ Jesus.

We ask all these things in Christ's name, amen.