

WHAT'S NEXT: Habits of the Heart

SERMON NOTES

Week 10: June 29, 2014

Romans 8:31-38

*31 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?*

WHY CAN WE REST SO SECURELY IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD?

THERE IS NOTHING THAT GOD WILL NOT PROVIDE FOR US (cf. Isaiah 53:6-12)

- God will not reject us
- God will not desert us

33 Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies.

OUR DEBT HAS BEEN PAID IN FULL

- God has addressed the problem of sin in the work of Jesus (Romans 3:21-26)

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.

JESUS, GLORIED, PLEADS OUR CASE BEFORE THE FATHER

Romans 8:31-39

Just Give Me Jesus

- We are free from condemnation because Jesus' sacrifice was accepted

35 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.”*

An explanatory note: The above reference to Psalm 44:22 in verse 36 immediately follows the mention of hardships in verse 35 that could possibly strike believers and separate them from Christ's love. This is not a departure from the subject. In verse 36 Paul asserts that believers are not exempt from them. The Old Testament context of Psalm 44 laments the suffering of the righteous, who have not abandoned God's name and yet are subjected to humiliation, defeat, and mockery. What Paul affirms in Romans is that such mockery and suffering are inevitably the lot of Christians who live in a world impacted by sin.

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 LOVE OF JESUS WILL NEVER FAIL US

- Our victory is not dependent upon our strength
- Our victory stands secure even in the midst of trials
- Our victory is entirely a credit to God's unfailing grace

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WHY CAN WE REST SO SECURELY IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD?

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(cf. Isaiah 53:6-12)

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- God _____ the problem of sin in the work of Jesus (Romans 3:21-26)

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THE _____ WILL NEVER FAIL US

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CONNECT GROUPS

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Anne Graham Lotz wrote a book entitled, *“Just Give Me Jesus.”* She included an edited version of a sermon preached by the late Dr. Shadrach Meshach **Lockridge** (March 7, 1913 – April 4, 2000). He was the Pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, a prominent African-American congregation located in San Diego, California, from 1953 to 1993. Pastor Lockridge understood that to know Jesus is to possess all we need for life and godliness. Do you know why that is? Do you know who He is? Listen to these words describing Jesus. Is there a phrase you find particularly pertinent?

He is enduringly strong, He is entirely sincere, He is eternally steadfast,
He is immortally gracious, He is imperially powerful, He is impartially merciful.
He is the greatest phenomenon that has ever crossed the horizons of the globe.

He is God's Son. He is the sinner's Savior.
He is the captive's Ransom. He is the breath of life.

He is the centerpiece of civilization. He stands in the solitude of Himself.

He is august and He is unique. He is unparalleled and He is unprecedented.
He is undisputed and He is undefiled. He is unsurpassed and He is unshakable.

He is the lofty idea in philosophy,
He is the highest personality in psychology.
He is the supreme subject in literature,
He is the unavoidable problem in higher criticism.
He is the fundamental doctrine of theology,
He is the Cornerstone, Capstone and stumbling Stone of all religion.
He is the miracle of the ages.

No means of measure can define His limitless love...
No far-seeing telescope can bring into visibility the coastline of His shoreless supply...
No barrier can hinder Him from pouring out His blessings...

He forgives and He forgets.
He creates and He cleanses.
He restores and He rebuilds.
He heals and He helps.
He reconciles and He redeems.
He comforts and He carries.
He lifts and He loves.

He is the God of the second chance, the fat chance, the slim chance, the no chance...

His office is manifold, and His promise is sure.
His life is matchless, and His goodness is limitless.
His mercy is enough, and His grace is sufficient.
His reign is righteous, His yoke is easy, and His burden is light.
He is indestructible. He is indescribable. He is incomprehensible.
He is inescapable. He is invincible. He is irresistible. He is irrefutable.
I can't get Him out of my mind... And I can't get Him out of my heart
I can't outlive Him, and I can't live without Him.
The Pharisees couldn't stand Him, but found they couldn't stop Him.
Satan tried to tempt Him, but found he couldn't trip Him.
Pilot examined Him on trial, but found he couldn't fault Him.
The Romans crucified Him, but found they couldn't take His life.
Death couldn't handle Him, and the grave couldn't hold Him.

He had no predecessor, and He will have no successor.
He is the Lion, and He is the Lamb.
He is God, and He is man.
He is the seven-way King:
He is the King of the JEWS . . . that's a RACIAL King.
He is the King of ISRAEL . . . that's a NATIONAL King.
He is the King of RIGHTEOUSNESS . . . that's a MORAL King.
He is the King of AGES . . . that's an ETERNAL King.
He is the King of HEAVEN . . . that's a UNIVERSAL King.
He is the King of GLORY . . . that's a CELESTIAL King.

HE'S THE KING OF KINGS AND THE LORD OF LORDS!