

Series through Romans: TRUTH: UNASHAMED, PART III

Sermon Title: Week 7, The Great Truth of inseparable love

Principal Scripture: Romans 8:31-39 Date: December 23, 2018

Just so we see where we are... a quick review of Romans 8.

BY FAITH, IN CHRIST

- **Vs. 1:** *We are free from condemnation! Totally. Eternally.*
- **Vs. 2-4:** We have been set free from the power of sin and death. When we live *by the Spirit*, God's nature, character, and work will be fulfilled in us.
- **Vs. 5-8:** We have the ability to live 'according' to our flesh, but this is not who we are! When we choose to live according to the *Spirit of Him who dwells within us*, we will experience Life and Peace.
- **Vs. 9-11:** We belong to Christ, therefore the Spirit of God and the Spirit of Christ dwell within us! In Christ, our spirit is in union with the Trinity, and the Spirit of God who raised Christ from the dead *lives in us*.
- **Vs. 12-13:** Because the Spirit is in us, and we are in the Spirit, the necessary result is that we will *live* by the Spirit! It is *by the Spirit* that our flesh is put out of power, and it is *by the Spirit* that we experience the Life of God in us and through us. This is our essential reality as believers: we *live by the Spirit!*
- **Vs. 14-17:** We are children of God, adopted into God's family, co-heirs of Christ, sharing his Glory.
- **Vs. 18-21:** Life is difficult, yes, but any present sufferings pale in comparison to God's Glory promised to us. Our future is not one of fear, but of the freedom and glory of God.
- **Vs. 22-27:** We live in the certain Hope of the full redemption of our bodies- that this life is just the beginning of the great story of eternity with God. And even though we are weak IN OUR FLESH, the Spirit of God who dwells in union with our spirit continuously prays to God on our behalf.
- **Vs. 28-30:** In all things, God is working for our true and ultimate good, according to His purpose. In His eternal knowledge, God has destined that we WILL be fully conformed to the image of Christ, and as brothers and sisters of Christ, we will share in His Glory.

– **FRIENDS, that is GOOD NEWS. Because this is true..**

✠ **AND NOW... The disciple's inevitable, inescapable, indescribable response:**

Romans 8:31 *What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?*

- **"these things"... not just contents of R8, but the entire message of Romans up to this point.**
- **CONCLUSION- God is FOR US! And...**

If God is **FOR** us, who can be **AGAINST** us?

- **DANGEROUS STATEMENT. Over centuries plenty of zealots have led people into disaster, and done horrible things, by claiming that their cause, their actions, were completely right and others completely wrong. Of course, is distortion...**
- **We miss the point if we put ourselves at the center of this promise, thinking that God should do anything we want him to do. RATHER, GOD is at the center of this promise. NO MATTER what happens, HE is our great hope- in eternity, and right now. More on this...**

- Also doesn't mean that we have no opponents, certainly doesn't mean that we don't have difficulty in life. Paul has clearly described – and does here- that as followers of Christ, we will face opposition! We have an enemy who is against us...
- But our VICTORY in Christ is so complete, that it makes no difference whatsoever who is against us, because our HOPE, our VICTORY, is in hands of GOD, and HE is for us!
- Having said this, Paul wants to make sure we understand the depth of his point...

A little Divine Logic

Romans 8:32 *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?*

† Because God gave us His own son, He also gives us ALL THINGS.

- If God loves us enough to give HIMSELF, by giving us HIS SON- and Jesus willingly gave himself- HOW COULD HE NOW, ONGOING DO ANY LESS?
- Something subtle here that's hard to catch in the translation- 'God.. gave Christ up for us all, how will He (god) not also, ALONG WITH HIM"- Who is along with who? WE, ALONG WITH CHRIST.... Paul is saying... DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND.. as we are in union with Christ, God, through Christ, will give us all things? The source of ALL THINGS is CHRIST. God has given us ALL GOOD THINGS, because he has given us- and we always are in union with- JESUS!
- That answers the question- What are ALL THINGS? It is all of who Christ is. The fruit of the spirit. Hope.. security, identity, purpose, meaning, courage

Romans 8:33 *Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies.*

† Because God has JUSTIFIED us, who can bring any charge against us?

- Not saying we aren't accountable for our actions.
 - Uh, judge, I know I was doing 100....
- RATHER- charge against our identity. Charge against our value. Even when we bring this ourself
- HUGE- CHARGE AGAINST OUR SALVATION... Paul says.. YOU ARE WHOM GOD HAS CHOSEN!
- Often this charge is brought by performance religion
- In time of persecution- charge of being true to our faith... because we are faithful to Christ, condemned? This leads to...

Romans 8:34 *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, who died for us and rose again, is at the side of God right now interceding for us! Who can CONDEMN us?

- Will people seek to condemn us? Yes!
 - Because we don't measure up to society/culture
 - Because our hope is in Christ...
- EVEN MORE, do we try to condemn ourselves? Yes!
- In the face of condemnation, Paul exclaims... NO ONE CAN CONDEMN YOU! You are MINE, and I am the one who has conquered death, I am alive forever and ever, and I am with my Father RIGHT NOW, working through our Holy Spirit in your spirit to bring about OUR GOOD in ALL THINGS of your life.

- **Reminds us of the woman caught in adultery... everyone ready to condemn her- she was expecting Jesus to Condemn her- no doubt she was condemning herself...**
- **DO WE SEE WHAT WE ARE BEING SHOWN?**
 - **God is one who has given us his Son**
 - **God is one who has justified us**
 - **God is one who has freed us from condemnation**
 - **God is one who is FOR US...**

† **Given all this, who (and what) can separate us from God's Love?**

Romans 8:35-39 *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."*

- **Trouble- external. Hardship- Internal stress, fear**
- **Persecution- fear of man**
- **Famine- fear of things beyond our control**
- **Nakedness- fear of poverty**
- **Psalm 44:22- for Jews in the church they related...**

We have heard it with our ears, O God; our ancestors have told us what you did in their days, in days long ago...

⁶ I put no trust in my bow, my sword does not bring me victory;

⁷ but you give us victory over our enemies, you put our adversaries to shame. ⁸ In God we make our boast all day long, and we will praise your name forever.

⁹ But now you have rejected and humbled us; you no longer go out with our armies...

- **LORD, WHY? We haven't forgotten you, if we did, you would know, why does it seem like you have forgotten us? ALL DAY WE FACE DEATH FOR YOUR SAKE... GOD, WHAT IS GOING ON!**
- **WE can't miss the power of what God is saying here! What shall separate us from His Love?**
- **Even our own questions, even when we look around us at trouble and hardship, and our hearts cry out within us against the injustice we see... EVEN THEN, are we separated from God's love?**

³⁷ *No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.*

- **Church, HEAR! We are not just saved for heaven when we die. Faith in Christ is not just something that helps us COPE. A conqueror is a person who OVERCOMES. Who PREVAILS. In Christ, We are MORE ...**
- **Two weeks ago we read verse 26.... The Spirit helps us in our weakness. We talked about the reality that as human beings, we are WEAK. What we are seeing now is an important clarification of this: IN OUR FLESH, APART FROM CHRIST, WE ARE WEAK.**
- **BUT, IN CHRIST- through our faith in HIM, our trust in HIM, our dependence upon HIM, WE ARE STRONG.**

- **Strong because we have the wisdom of God- word**
- **Strong because we are able to CHOOSE to be obedient. CHOOSE to surrender. CHOOSE to...**
- **Strong because we are people of HOPE**
- **Strong because we understand and see this life in the light of eternity.**
- **Strong because we have the very presence of Christ IN US- we are not alone**
- **AND STRONG, because BY THE SPIRIT, WE MAY BE CONVINCED that NOTHING will be able to separate us from God's love.**

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.

- **My friends, this is a call to faith. A call to believe. This is GOOD NEWS.**
- **HAVE YOU RECEIVED HIM?**