

**Standing in the Security of His Grace
Celebrating Our Security**

Introduction: In this final section of our study (Romans 5-8), Paul adds a powerful and airtight conclusive argument to the **believer's security in God's grace.**

- Why we can be sure!
- Why we can grow without fear!
- Why we can proceed in liberty!
- Why we can rest in confidence!

Series of rhetorical questions:

Begins with "What then should we say to these things?" (31)

- These things? Only v. 28-30?

For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. Romans 8:28-30 NKJV

- All the blessings of 5-8 (more likely)
- Common rhetorical practice for authors to end with emotional appeal to readers at the end of an argument.

These things would include:

- Justification by faith/peace with God—5:1
- Changed eras (Adam to Christ)—5:12-21
- United with Christ in His Death/Resurrection—6:1-6
- No longer slaves to sin but now to righteousness—6:11-23
- Alive in the Spirit of God—8:1-9
- Promise of resurrection—8:11
- Adopted sons and heir of God—8:12-17
- Assured of future glory that will outweigh any present suffering—8:18-38

What shall we say to these things?

5 Rhetorical questions provide the answer:

5 Statements to reveal these questions:

I. All the power of Hell may set themselves together against us but can never prevail.

“If God is for us, who can be against us?” (v. 31)

- A. Had Paul asked “who is against us?” There would be a barrage of replies (hardships, persecution, sickness, Satan, grief, indwelling of sin, death, doubts, fears, our failures).
- B. Not the question he asked—If God is for us—WHO can be against us?
 - 1. He is on OUR side!
 - 2. He is working FOR us!
 - 3. Nothing can ultimately stand in the way of the one whom God is for!

John Chrysostom— Archbishop of Constantinople (banished for preaching)

“Yet those that be against us, so far are they from thwarting us at all, that even without their will, they become to us the causes of crowns and procurers of countless blessings, in that God’s wisdom turned their plots unto our salvation and glory. See how really no one is against us!”

II. If God willingly gave us the dearest and costliest gift, will He not most assuredly give us all we need?

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? Romans 8:32 NKJV

- A. We need many things—some which are difficult and demanding—how can we be sure He will meet all of our needs?
- B. Paul points us to the cross
 - 1. Picture of Abraham—handed him over (his son)
 - 2. Then God concerning whom we are asking whether or not He will give us all things is the God whom has already given us His son!
 - 3. He doesn’t spare Him!
 - 4. Gave Him up for us all (paradidomai)

NOTE: Not Judas or Pilate—God

Octavius Winslow—“Who delivered up Jesus to die? Not Judas for money; not Pilate for fear; not the Jews for envy; but the Father for love!”

C. The cross is the guarantor of the continuing, unfailing, generosity of God.

As His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue. 2 Peter 1:3 NKJV

III. If God has justified me, that verdict cannot be overturned!

Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Romans 8:33 NKJV

A. Who will stand and accuse us on the Day of Judgment?

1. Satan—accuser of the brethren will for sure
2. Our conscience condemns us
3. Many human enemies would delight in pointing a finger

B. But all accusations fall to the ground

He is near who justifies Me; Who will contend with Me? Let us stand together. Who is My adversary? Let him come near Me. 9 Surely the Lord God will help Me; Who is he who will condemn Me? Indeed they will all grow old like a garment; The moth will eat them up. Isaiah 50:8-9 NKJV

No weapon formed against you shall prosper, And every tongue which rises against you in judgment You shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, And their righteousness is from Me," Says the Lord. Isaiah 54:17 NKJV

*When Satan tempts me to despair
And tells me of the guilt within
Upward I look and see Him there
Who made an end to all my sin.*

*Because the sinless Savior died
My sinful soul is counted free
For God the just is satisfied
To look on Him and pardon me!*

IV. If Christ chooses not to condemn me then there is no condemnation that is mine.

Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. Romans 8:34 NKJV

A. Again, many would condemn me.

1. Satan
2. Others
3. My own heart

For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things. 21 Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God. 1 John 3:20-21 NKJV

B. Only Christ has right to condemn—without sin

(ILL) John 8—Where are your accusers—neither do I condemn you—go and sin no more

C. Instead

1. He died

For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh. Romans 8:3 NKJV

2. He resurrected

Who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification. Romans 4:25 NKJV

3. Sat at the right hand—finished work!
4. Intercedes for us

Also there were many priests, because they were prevented by death from continuing. 24 But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood. 25 Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. Hebrews 7:23-25 NKJV

NO CONDEMNATION

V. **The depth of the Father's love for us makes us inseparable from God.**

A. The question

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Romans 8:35-36 NKJV

NOTE: Paul knew that these things were incapable of disrupting his walk with Christ

In journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; 27 in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. 2 Corinthians 11:26-27 NKJV

Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong. 2 Corinthians 12:10 NKJV

B. Suffering is no sign of severed relationship with God—rather deepened intimacy

As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." Romans 8:36 NKJV

For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake. Philippians 1:29 NKJV

C. Not only can these things not separate us from His love—they indeed strengthen our resolve and victory!

Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. Romans 8:37 NKJV

IMPORTANT: This is what makes believers different

- We have trials—we conquer
- We have a hope beyond here

We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; 2 Corinthians 4:8 NKJV

Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. 2 Corinthians 4:16 NKJV

While we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal. 2 Corinthians 4:18 NKJV

(Tragedy, grief, loss, pain, sickness, death)—MORE THAN CONQUERERS!

D. Nothing can remove the security of God's love.

For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor 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. Romans 8:38-39 NKJV

1. I am persuaded (perfect tense) “I have become and I remain convinced.”
2. Ten potential barriers
 - a. Death and Life (crises of death/calamity of life)
 - b. Angels and principalities—(all cosmic entities)

Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it. Colossians 2:15 NKJV

- c. Things present/things to come—time
- d. Height or depth—space
- e. Nothing in all of creation can separate us from His love

Conclusion: So here we stand in the security of His grace!

Couple of final thoughts...

- A. Does this security really extend as fully as it appears? (Does the “nothing” can separate me include the responsible choices of unfaithful Christians? Can I choose to separate myself from God's love? Calvinist? Arminian? My theology allows for this!
- B. With this caveat!

It is the love of God that Paul celebrates~

1. Supremely displayed in the cross

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8 NKJV

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? Romans 8:32 NKJV

Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. Romans 8:37 NKJV

2. Poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit

Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us. Romans 5:5 NKJV

3. Drawn us to a responsive love

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. Romans 8:28 NKJV

4. Its essential steadfastness will never let us go

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." 37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. 38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor 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. Romans 8:35-39 NKJV

"Our confidence is not in our love for Him, which is frail, fickle, and faltering, but in His love for us which is steadfast, faithful, and persevering." Stott

The Love of God (3rd stanza/chorus)

*Could we with ink the ocean fill,
And were the skies of parchment made,
Were every stalk on earth a quill,
And every man a scribe by trade;
To write the love of God above
Would drain the ocean dry;
Nor could the scroll contain the whole,
Though stretched from sky to sky.*

*Oh, love of God, how rich and pure!
How measureless and strong!
It shall forevermore endure—
The saints' and angels' song.*

How Deep the Father's Love for Us

*How deep the Father's love for us,
How vast beyond all measure,
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss -
The Father turns His face away,
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory.*

*Behold the man upon a cross,
My sin upon His shoulders;
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life -
I know that it is finished.*

*I will not boast in anything,
No gifts, no power, no wisdom;
But I will boast in Jesus Christ,
His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer;
But this I know with all my heart -
His wounds have paid my ransom.*