

Romans Session 119

The Recipients of Security

Romans 8:28 (NASB)

²⁸ *And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose*

The only qualification in the marvelous promise of this verse has to do with the recipients. It is solely for His children that God promises to work everything for good.

To Those who love God and **those who are called** are the two of the many titles or descriptions the New Testament uses of Christians.

From the human perspective we are **those who love God**, whereas from God's perspective we are **those who are called**.

THE RECIPIENTS OF SECURITY LOVE GOD

“to those who love God”

First, Paul is describing the recipients of eternal security as **those who love God**.

Nothing more characterizes the true believer than genuine **love** for **God**.

Redeemed people **love** the gracious **God** who has saved them.

Because of their depraved and sinful natures, the unredeemed hate God, regardless of any arguments they may have to the contrary.

When God made His covenant with Israel through Moses, He made the distinction clear between those who love Him and those who hate Him.

In the Ten Commandments the Lord told His people,

Exodus 20:4-6 (NASB)

⁴ *"You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth.*

⁵ *"You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me,*

⁶ *but showing lovingkindness to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.*

Also, in the second giving of the Law it was reiterated.

Deuteronomy 7:9 (NASB)

⁹ *"Know therefore that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God, who keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments;*

And in Nehemiah'

Nehemiah 1:4-5 (NASB)

⁴ *When I heard these words, I sat down and wept and mourned for days; and I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven.*

⁵ *I said, "I beseech You, O LORD God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who preserves the covenant and lovingkindness for those who love Him and keep His commandments*

The Psalmist also talks of this'

Psalm 69:34-36 (NASB)

³⁴ *Let heaven and earth praise Him, The seas and everything that moves in them.*

³⁵ *For God will save Zion and build the cities of Judah, That they may dwell there and possess it.*

³⁶ *The descendants of His servants will inherit it, And those who love His name will dwell in it.*

And again in Psalms,

Psalm 97:9-10 (NASB)

⁹ *For You are the LORD Most High over all the earth; You are exalted far above all gods.*

¹⁰ *Hate evil, you who love the LORD, Who preserves the souls of His godly ones; He delivers them from the hand of the wicked.*

In God's sight there are only two categories of human beings, those who hate Him and those who love Him.

Jesus was referring to that truth when He said;

Matthew 12:30a (NASB)

³⁰ *"He who is not with Me is against Me;*

Even during the time of the Mosaic Covenant, when God was dealing with His chosen people Israel in a unique way, any person, even a Gentile, who trusted in Him was accepted by Him and was characterized by love for the Lord.

God's redeemed included;

Isaiah 56:4-6 (NASB)

⁴ *For thus says the LORD, "To the eunuchs who keep My sabbaths, And choose what pleases Me, And hold fast My covenant,*

⁵ *To them I will give in My house and within My walls a memorial, And a name better than that of sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name which will not be cut off.*

⁶ *"Also the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, To minister to Him, and to love the name of the LORD, To be His servants, every one who keeps from profaning the sabbath And holds fast My covenant;*

The New Testament is equally clear that those who belong to God love Him.

1 Corinthians 2:9 (NASB)

⁹ *but just as it is written, "THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD, AND which HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN, ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM."*

And later in the letter it is said;

1 Corinthians 8:3 (NASB)

³ *but if anyone loves God, he is known by Him.*

James says that those who love God;

James 1:12 (NASB)

¹² *Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.*

Paul refers to Christians as those;

Ephesians 6:24 (NASB)

²⁴ *Grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ with incorruptible love.*

You see simple saving faith involves much more than simply acknowledging God. Even the demons fearfully believe that God is one and is all powerful.

James 2:19 (NASB)

¹⁹ *You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder.*

True faith involves the surrendering of one's sinful self to God for forgiveness and receiving Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

And the first mark of saving faith is love for God.

True salvation produces lovers of God, because;

Romans 5:5b (NASB)

⁵ *"the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us."*

It is not by accident that Paul lists love as the first fruit of the Spirit;

Galatians 5:22-23 (NASB)

²² *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,*

²³ *gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.*

Love for God is closely related to forgiveness, because the redeemed believer cannot help being grateful for God's gracious forgiveness.

When the sinful woman, doubtlessly a prostitute, washed and anointed Jesus feet in the Pharisee's house, the Lord explained to His resentful host that she expressed great love because she had been forgiven great sins.

Luke 7:47 (NASB)

⁴⁷ *"For this reason I say to you, her sins, which are many, have been forgiven, for she loved much; but he who is forgiven little, loves little."*

Love for God is also related to obedience.

Luke 6:46 (NASB)

⁴⁶ *"Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?"*

The persistently disobedient heart is an unbelieving and unloving heart.

Because the Love of Christ controls us;

2 Corinthians 5:14 (NASB)

¹⁴ For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died;

His Word will also control us;

John 15:14 (NASB)

¹⁴ "You are My friends if you do what I command you.

In context, it is clear that Jesus uses the term friend as a synonym for a true disciple,

John 15:8-17 (NASB)

⁸ "My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.

⁹ "Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love.

¹⁰ "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.

¹¹ "These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full.

¹² "This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you.

¹³ "Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.

¹⁴ "You are My friends if you do what I command you.

¹⁵ "No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you.

¹⁶ "You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.

¹⁷ "This I command you, that you love one another.

Obviously, we do not love Christ as fully as we ought because we are still imperfect and are contaminated by the sinful remnants of the old self.

It is for that reason that Paul told the Philippians:

Philippians 1:9 (NASB)

⁹ And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment,

Their love for Christ was genuine, but it was not yet perfect.

Genuine love for God has many facets and manifestations. First, godly love longs for personal communion with the Lord.

It was that desire which led the psalmists to proclaim,

Psalms 42:1-2 (NASB)

¹ As the deer pants for the water brooks, So my soul pants for You, O God.

² My soul thirsts for God, for the living God; When shall I come and appear before God?

He also said;

Psalms 73:25 (NASB)

²⁵ Whom have I in heaven but You? And besides You, I desire nothing on earth.

David prayed;

Psalm 63:1-3 (NASB)

¹ *O God, You are my God; I shall seek You earnestly; My soul thirsts for You, my flesh yearns for You, In a dry and weary land where there is no water.*

² *Thus I have seen You in the sanctuary, To see Your power and Your glory.*

³ *Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, My lips will praise You.*

Speaking for all faithful believers, the sons of Korah exulted,

Psalm 84:2-4 (NASB)

² *My soul longed and even yearned for the courts of the LORD; My heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.*

³ *The bird also has found a house, And the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, Even Your altars, O LORD of hosts, My King and my God.*

⁴ *How blessed are those who dwell in Your house! They are ever praising You. Selah.*

Second, genuine love for God trusts in His power to protect His own.

We will take this up next time.