

Romans Session 127
The Ultimate Security 5
The Hymn of Security 3

Romans 8:31-39 (NASB)

³¹ *What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us?*

³² *He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?*

³³ *Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies;*

³⁴ *who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.*

³⁵ *Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?*

³⁶ *Just as it is written, "FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG; WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED."*

³⁷ *But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.*

³⁸ *For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,*

³⁹ *nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

When we stopped last time, we were discussing the question that asks can Satan in anyway cause us to lose our salvation?

We found many scriptures indicating that he is the accuser of the brethren and accuses us day and night before the Throne of God.

But it all comes back to the phrase, *“who will bring a charge against God’s elect? God is the one who justifies, who is the one who condemns?”*

Believers have been declared eternally guiltless and are no longer under the condemnation of God **the only one who condemns.**

We said that God conceived the law, revealed the law, interprets the law, and applies the law.

And through the sacrifice of His Son, all the demands of the law have been met for those who trust in Him.

It is not that the accusations made against believers by Satan and the unbelieving world are always false.

The fact that we are not yet sinless is obvious, but even when a charge against us is true, it is never sufficient grounds for our damnation, because all our sins, past, present, and future, have been covered by the blood of Christ and we are now clothed in His Righteousness.

Going forward then, we must wonder if our Savior Himself would take back our Salvation.

Anticipating that question, Paul declares;

Romans 8:34b (NASB)

³⁴ *Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.*

It is because Jesus makes continuous intercession for all believers, **God’s Elect**, that:

John 10:28 (NASB)

²⁸ *they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand.*

For **Christ** to take away our salvation would be for Him to work against Himself and to nullify His own promise. Christ offers no temporary spiritual life but only that which is eternal.

He could not grant eternal life and then take it away, because that would demonstrate that the life, He had granted was not eternal.

In *verse 34* Paul reveals four realities that protect our salvation in Jesus Christ.

First, he says **Christ Jesus died**.

In His death He took upon Himself the full penalty for our sins. In His death He bore the condemnation that we deserved but from which we are forever freed.

Romans 8:1 (NASB)

¹ *Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.*

The death of the Lord Jesus Christ on our behalf is the only condemnation we will ever know.

Second, he says **Christ was raised**.

Christ was raised from the dead, proving His victory over sin and over its supreme penalty of death.

The grave could not hold Jesus, because He had conquered death; and His conquest over death bequeaths eternal life to every person who trusts in Him.

As Paul has declared earlier in this letter,

Romans 4:25 (NASB)

²⁵ *He who was delivered over because of our transgressions, and was raised because of our justification.*

His death paid the price for our sins and his resurrections gave absolute proof that the price was paid.

When God raised Jesus from the dead, He demonstrated that His Son had offered the full satisfactions for sin that the law demands.

Third, he says, **Christ is at the right hand of God**.

Christ holds the divine place of exaltation and honor. Because;

Philippians 2:8b-9 (NASB)

⁸ *He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.*

⁹ *For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,*

David foretold that glorious event when he wrote,

Psalms 110:1 (NASB)

¹ *The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at My right hand Until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet."*

We might notice that there were not seats in the Tabernacle or Temple, because the sacrifices made there by the priests were never finished. They were but pictures of the one and only true sacrifice that the Son of God one day would make.

The writer of Hebrews explains that;

Hebrews 10:11-12 (NASB)

¹¹ *Every priest stands daily ministering and offering time after time the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins;*

¹² *but He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, SAT DOWN AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD,*

Hebrews 1:3 (NASB)

³ *And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,*

And then **Fourth**, he says, **Christ also intercedes for us.**

Although His work of atonement was finished, His continuing ministry of intercession for those saved through His sacrifice will continue without interruption until every redeemed soul is safe in heaven.

Just as Isaiah had prophesied;

Isaiah 53:12 (NASB)

¹² *Therefore, I will allot Him a portion with the great, And He will divide the booty with the strong; Because He poured out Himself to death, And was numbered with the transgressors; Yet He Himself bore the sin of many, And interceded for the transgressors.*

And also;

Hebrews 7:25 (NASB)

²⁵ *Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.*

If we understand what Christ did on the cross to save us from sin, we understand what it means to be secure in His Salvation.

If we believe that God loved us so much when we were wretched and ungodly that He sent His Son to die on the cross to bring us to Himself, how could we believe that, after we are saved, His love is not strong enough to keep us saved?

If Christ had power to redeem us out of bondage to sin, how could He lack power to keep us redeemed?

Christ, the perfect Priest, offered a perfect sacrifice to make us perfect.

To deny the security of the believer is therefore to deny the sufficiency of the work of Christ.

To deny the security of the believer is to misunderstand the heart of God, to misunderstand the gift of Christ, to misunderstand the meaning of the cross, to misunderstand the biblical meaning of Salvation.

Even when we sin after we are saved,

1 John 1:9 (NASB)

⁹ *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

1 John 2:1 (NASB)

¹ *My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous;*

When we sin, our Lord intercedes on our behalf and comes to our defense against Satan and any others who might bring charges against us.

Romans 8:33 (NASB)

³³ *Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies;*

Paul assures the believers at Corinth;

2 Corinthians 9:8 (NASB)

⁸ *And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed;*

Through our remaining days on earth and throughout all eternity, our gracious Lord will hold us safe in His everlasting love by His everlasting power.

So, what we see here is that no one can ever cause us to lose our salvation. No created being such as Satan or any of his children, and certainly not God, or His Son Jesus Christ.

But what about events? Can any event threaten our security?

Romans 8:35-37 (NASB)

³⁵ *Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?*

³⁶ *Just as it is written, "FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG; WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED."*

³⁷ *But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.*

So, after establishing that it is impossible for any person to take away our salvation, Paul anticipates a similar question that some will ask:

“Is it possible for circumstances to rob a believer of his salvation?”

The Apostle now proceeds to show that that, too, is impossible.

In the verses above, the interrogative pronoun “who” translated from the word “*Tis*” and is the same word that begins the previous two verses.

But the Greek term also can mean , “what” and the fact that Paul speaks only of things and not people in verses 35-37 makes clear that he is now referring to impersonal things.

Unpleasant and dangerous circumstances obviously can have a detrimental influence on the faith and endurance of believers.

The question here, however, is whether they can cause a believer to sin himself out of salvation.

In essence, this question is an extension of the one discussed above regarding the possibility of a believer’s dislodging himself from God’s grace.

Paul anticipates and refutes the notion that any circumstance, no matter how threatening and potentially destructive, can cause a genuine believer to forfeit his salvation.

In verse 35, Paul lists a representative few of the countless ominous circumstances that a faithful believer may encounter while they still live in the world.

Romans 8:35 (NASB)

³⁵ *Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?*

First of all, it should be noted that **the Love of Christ** does not refer to the believer's love for Him but rather to His love for the believer.

Romans 8:37 (NASB)

³⁷ *But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.*

Romans 8:39 (NASB)

³⁹ *nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

No person can love Christ who has not experienced the redeeming work of Christ's love for him:

1 John 4:19 (NASB)

¹⁹ *We love, because He first loved us.*

In this context, **the love of Christ** represents salvation.

Paul is therefore asking rhetorically if any circumstance is powerful enough to cause a true believe to turn against **Christ** in a way that would cause **Christ** to turn His back on the believer.

So, at issue, then are the power and permanence of **the love of Christ** for those He has bought with His own blood and brought into the family and kingdom of His Father.

John reports that;

John 13:1 (NASB)

¹ *Now before the Feast of the Passover, Jesus knowing that His hour had come that He would depart out of this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.*

As John makes clear in his first epistle, "**the end**" does not refer simply to the end of Jesus earthly life, but to the end of every believer's earthly life.

1 John 4:9-10 (NASB)

⁹ *By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him.*

¹⁰ *In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins*

1 John 4:17 (NASB)

¹⁷ *By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world..*

We have confidence as we face the day of judgment, because we know that the divine and indestructible **love of Christ** binds us eternally to Him.

In a majestic benediction at the end of the second chapter of his letter to Thessalonica, Paul says;

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17 (NASB)

¹⁶ Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us eternal comfort and good hope by grace,

¹⁷ comfort and strengthen your hearts in every good work and word.

Eternal comfort and good hope are the permanent gifts of God's grace, because by definition that which is eternal cannot end.

Next time we will begin to look at each circumstance that Paul has listed here.