

Sermon Title: Victoriously Secured by the Eternal Love of God, Part 1

Sermon Text: Romans 8:31-34

Sermon Purpose: To call the hearer to a glorious celebration of the assurance of preservation of the Saints.

Sermon Proposition: There are 3 questions Paul uses to address the security of the believer.

Introduction: *“Things Don’t Just Happen”*

Things don’t just happen to us who love God,
They’re planned by His own dear hand,
Then molded and shaped, and timed by His clock,
Things don’t just happen – they’re planned.
We don’t just guess on the issues of life;
We Christians just rest in our Lord,
We are directed by His sovereign will,
In the light of His holy Word.
We who love Jesus are walking by faith,
Not seeing one step that’s ahead,
Not doubting one moment what our lot might be,
But looking to Jesus, instead.
We praise our dear Saviour for loving us so,
For planning each care of our life;
Then giving us faith to trust Him for all
The blessings as well as the strife.
Things don’t just happen to us who love God,
To us who have taken our stand;
No matter the lot, the course, or the price,
Things don’t just happen – they’re planned.

- Esther Fields, quoted in Barbara Johnson, *Fresh Elastic for Stretched Out Moms*

[Charles R. Swindoll, *Swindoll’s Ultimate Book of Illustrations & Quotes*, Thomas Nelson, Nashville: 1998, p.243.]

I. Question #1: What shall we say to these things? V.31a

The love of God and His actions related to that love provides victorious security, in this life and the life to come, which results in a celebration for and by believers. The absolute certainty of a final vindication from condemnation because of the justifying verdict of God, on the sinner’s behalf, because of their faith in Jesus Christ.

Quote: *Persons Who Might Seem to Threaten Security* by Chrysostom: “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 turneth their plots unto our salvation and glory. See how really no one is against us!” [Douglas J. Moo, “NIT Commentary of the New Testament: The Epistle to the Romans, p. 539]

Psalm 27:1 The LORD *is* my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The LORD *is* the strength of my life; Of whom shall I be afraid?

Psalm 46:1 God *is* our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble. **2** Therefore we will not fear, Even though the earth be removed, And though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; **3** *Though* its waters roar *and* be troubled, *Though* the mountains shake with its swelling. Selah

Psalm 46:11 The LORD of hosts *is* with us; The God of Jacob *is* our refuge. Selah

Isaiah 40:22 *It is* He who sits above the circle of the earth, And its inhabitants *are* like grasshoppers, Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, And spreads them out like a tent to dwell in.

Isaiah 40:26 Lift up your eyes on high, And see who has created these *things*, Who brings out their host by number; He calls them all by name, By the greatness of His might And the strength of *His* power; Not one is missing.

Isaiah 40:28 Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the LORD, The Creator of the ends of the earth, Neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable.

II. Question #2: Since God is for us, who can be against us? v.31a

Paul addresses two important facts, the question of who vv. 31-34 and the question of what vv. 35-37. As a result of the justifying verdict of God; what great enemies, events, powers, and state, has not been rendered impotent or powerless, unimportant. The tribulations of this life are stripped of any ability to discourage or destroy the believer. Why, because God is on our side and He is working on our behalf. This will summarize the Gospel, and serve as a concise summary of Romans 3:21-8:30.

(**Psalm 27:1**)

Psalm 23:4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

Psalm 56:9 When I cry out to You, Then my enemies will turn back; This I know, because God is for me.

The opposition seems like a lot at times, the world, the flesh, Satan, the opposers of Christ, false teachers and religions, but God loves us and is sovereign.

A. The **illustration** of God's love. V.32a

In contrast to Abraham who was permitted to spare his only son, God did not spare His Son. The love of God has its deepest demonstration in the giving of His own Son for us, this is a demonstration that should leave no doubt about His commitment to be "for us" right up to, and including the end of all things.

Romans 5:8-9; 8:14-16; Isaiah 53:10; Genesis 22

B. The **initiator** of God's love is God. V.32b

"handed Him over," a verb that reminds us of the initiative of God in the sacrificial crucifixion of Jesus. The addition of "for us all" stresses that believers are the focus of this text, that God has given His only begotten Son for us, to save us.

Isaiah 53:4 Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. **5** But He *was* wounded for our transgressions, *He was* bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace *was* upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. **6** All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

Isaiah 53:10 Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put *Him* to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see *His* seed, He shall prolong *His* days, And the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand.

C. The **intentionality** of God's purposeful love. V.32c

By introducing the word how, "Paul suggests how inconceivable it would be for these truths to be fulfilled in our lives. Since God has, indeed given His Son for us, how can anyone doubt that He will not also intentionally, fulfill the purposes He intended in saving, sanctifying, and securing the believer. (**Romans 5-8**)

In other words, since God did the greater (gave/delivered His Son), will He not do the lesser and give us all that is necessary for life and godliness? Yes He does and will!

III. Question #3: Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? V.33

The future tense of the verb "who shall bring a charge" focuses on the last judgment: Who will or can accuse us back into condemnation?

There are accusers, but no accusation will stand or be effective for condemnation because it is against God's elect. Vv. 28-30

A. The justification of God, in Christ **clears** all charges. V.33a

B. The justification of God, in Christ **dismisses** all condemners and accusers. V.34b

C. The justification of God, in Christ **covers** all sins. V.34c

D. The justification of God, in Christ is **validated** by the resurrection. V.34d

E. The justification of God, in Christ is **validated** by the intercessory ministry of Jesus Christ.
V.34e

Because Jesus Christ lives and has ascended, He is able to “intercede” for us, acting as our High Priest in the very presence of God.

Psalms 101:1 I will sing of mercy and justice; To You, O LORD, I will sing praises.

Hebrews 7:25 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.