

Romans 8:31-39
Suffering Confidently

I. Romans 8 summarizes the glories of the gospel: New Spirit Life. (Rom. 5:1-11)

- A. He has removed all condemnation. 1-2
- B. He has empowered all obedience. 3-4
- C. He has adopted us into his family. 15-17
- D. He has promised an entirely new creation. 18-23
- E. He has personally underwritten our life and destiny. 26-30 (Zech.4:6)**
 - 1. His Prayer: He translates our prayers. 26-27
 - 2. His Providence: He guides our steps. 28
 - 3. His Predestination: He guarantees our glory. 29-30
 - 4. *The only reason to reject God's sovereignty is lack of trust in His character ... Is that what we really want to convey? Eph. 1:11*

II. So, what should we say to these things? Romans 8:31-39

- A. Read and explain.

III. Why should a Christian be confident? Because in Christ:

- A. God's support is unstoppable. 31-32
 - 1. *He killed his own Son – for you and me.*
 - a) It was His wrath. Rom. 3:25. (Propitiation)
 - b) It was His plan. Acts 2:23
 - 2. *How will he fail to complete his work in and for us.*
 - a) *To give us "all things"* Ps. 8:6
 - b) The redeemed creation, with us as the stewards we were meant to be
 - 3. It is still about Him, but he is *for us* as His personal children.
 - 4. *If He gave his son, why would he hold out on any other good thing?*
- B. God's justification is unbeatable. 33-35
 - 1. Because He is the judge, who else is there to accuse?
 - 2. Because Christ is interceding for you. So is the Spirit. 26
 - a) How can this intercession fail?
 - b) His intercession is propitiation 1 John 1:8-2:2**
- C. God's love is unbreakable. 35-39
 - 1. It's His love, not ours that sustains the eternal life. 37. 1 Jn.4:10
 - a) Through Him who loved us ...
 - 2. *God's personal love is sustaining, deliberate, effective, powerful. Not like the helpless longing we have for things or people.*
 - 3. *The fact that we are not insulated from the death and destruction of this world makes us think perhaps the Lord doesn't love us, but that is not true*

IV. The context of gospel faith is the fallenness of the world. The better you know the gospel, the deeper your awareness of suffering, groaning, waiting.

- A. Confident suffering. 5:2-3
 - 1. Unexplained, but not unexpected. Jn.16:33
- B. Hopeful groaning. 8:22, 23
 - 1. Birth pangs hurt but they guarantee life.
- C. Productive waiting. 5:3
 - 1. Waiting produces endurance.

V. We are called to have faith in Christ, but also the faith of Christ. His kind of faith.

- A. God is not letting you perish. Jn. 3:16. 10::25-30; 6:37-40
 - 1. (perish = apollumi, be ruined)
 - 2. Even when Jesus felt rejected he trusted his Father (Ps.22:1; Matt.27:46)
- B. God is not letting you go. Phil. 1:6. Those whom he foreknew...glorified.
 - 1. *He did not catch you on the tip of His glove and he never fumbles. He chose you from before time.*
 - 2. *You are not an afterthought, but a "forethought" 29.*
- C. God is not letting you down.
 - 1. He is not failing you, as if he can't reach your situation or your need.
 - 2. He is not holding out on you, waiting for you to fast a little more, learn one final secret, get one more spiritual merit badge. This is not a spirituality competition (Pharisaism)
 - 3. Is he teaching us things in our suffering? Of Course! But that is not the same as "holding out on us.? James 1:2-3
- D. Because God sacrificed His son (himself in human form) to get you.