

LESSON 18 8:31-39

Questions and answers:

1. What shall we say to these things?

Paul has already talked about the suffering of God's people in the course of the ministry, and for the duration of this life. But he also reassures his readers that we should be encouraged because we ultimately belong to Him and our eternity is safe and secure. This salvation is because of Him knowing, ordaining, calling, justifying, and glorifying us. So then...

2. If God is for us, who can be against us?

This almost needs no commentary, or explanation. What is there to fear if God is for us. Persecutors, fear mongers, antagonists, and/or enemies may confront us, but the Lord of Lords has saved us by His own choosing and working.

3. He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

Think about the greatness of our gift of salvation. The awfulness of Christ's sacrifice is contrasted by the greatness of our reward through that same sacrifice.

4. Who shall bring any charge against God's elect?

None are able to make accusations against us. We are His, and He is our champion and defender. (See the next statement.)

It is God who justifies.

If God declares us forgiven, or righteous, who would dare contradict Him? His declarations and works are final and established.

5. Who is to condemn?

Christ Jesus is the one who died – more than that, who was raised – who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

6. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?

As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.