

Five Unanswerable Questions

Romans 8.31-39

Apostle PAUL – Writing Letter to Christians in ROME – Never BEEN There

He is NOT FOUNDER of Church – NOR is PETER – Romans @ Pentecost?

Luke writes: “visitors from Rome” Acts 2:10

But Paul knows MANY People in Church in Rome: ch 16 List of NAMES

Paul wants to MAKE BUSINESS Deal with Them – GOD’S Mission Business

ID of Asian Businessman – Who ARE You? What do you WANT?

Letter: Beautiful, Carefully REASONED, Christ-Exalting Business CARD

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God...to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations...
Romans 1.1,5

Paul likely in his 50’s NO PLANS for Retirement – BIG PLANS for MISSION

“from Jerusalem and all the way around to Illyricum (*modern Yugoslavia*) I have fulfilled the ministry of the gospel of Christ”
Romans 15.19

Planted Vibrant Gospel-Preaching, Outward thinking Churches in Major CITIES

All across the EASTERN Mediterranean – Tasked them to Reach OUT to All

NOW as PIONEER – Apostle – Goes to Break New Ground – New Territories

Wants to VISIT Rome – Encourage Them / BE Encouraged – Recruit SUPPORT

“I have been longing for many years to see you, I plan to do so...I will go to Spain and visit you on the way”
Romans 15.23,28

We KNOW Paul got to Rome – NOT Sure whether SPAIN – We must Ask him!

ROMANS – Most Detailed Explanation of Paul’s Gospel – given him by JESUS

Gospel been Preaching for 25 yrs: WILL Preach until CALLED Home by Jesus

Paul – Romans – Greatest THEOLOGIAN AND MISSIONARY of Church

We UNFAITHFUL to Paul & Jesus to LOWER Either Standard – Theol or Miss

Now Step in GREATEST Chapter of this Great Letter – Romans 8

PEAKS of MAJESTIC Mtns – Stunning BEAUTY & POWER of Jesus Christ

SECURITY & STATUS of Believer in Jesus Christ – Son & Daughter of God

Now Questions asks 5 Questions about our STATUS

Can these GREAT PROMISES be BELIEVED? Will they LAST FOREVER?

Theme: Can ANYTHING or ANYONE Defeat God’s Plan for our Salvation?

Questions UNANSWERABLE > Nothing can DEFEAT or DELAY the LORD

The apostle hurls these questions out into space, as it were, defiantly, triumphantly, challenging any creature in heaven or earth or hell to answer them or deny the truth that is contained in them. But there is no answer, for nobody and nothing can harm the redeemed people of God. John Stott

Champion v. 31/ **Provider** v. 32 / **Judge** v. 33 / **Friend** v. 34 / **Emmanuel** v. 35

1. We have a Champion

v. 31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

“Say to THESE THINGS”? – Stepping into STORY of Romans in Chapter 8

Need to LOOK Back at What Paul has been TALKING About

Romans - FULL PICTURE OF SALVATION

| | | |
|------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Romans 3 | God’s Work in the PAST | Saved from the PENALTY of Sin |
| Romans 6,7 | God’s Work in the PRESENT | Saving from the POWER of Sin |
| Romans 8 | God’s Work in the FUTURE | Saved from the PRESENCE of Sin |

v. 31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

What could be AGAINST Us? – Bible teaches Christians have 3 ENEMIES

1. World - Tries to make Us CONFORM to it – if REFUSE – Persecution

Struggled PICTURED in Revelation: Dragon, False Prophet, Beast, Babylon

2. Flesh – Seeds of Sin in US – Easily TEMPTED – Cannot Escape its Influence

3. Devil – Enemy of our SOULS – Roaring Lion, seeking to DEVOUR

Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 1 Peter 5.8

If God is FOR US! - IF – NOT imply DOUBT = SINCE God IS FOR US -

vs. 29,30 - 5 Great Words: Foreknown, Predestined, Called, Justified, Glorified

vs. 28-30 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

Great CHAMPION on Our Side – DEFEATED Every ENEMY Have / Will Face
Almighty God – Maker of Heaven & Earth / Sky & Sea is FOR US!

2. We have a Provider

v. 32 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?

Wonderful News “God Loves You” – No Better News

WORDS – Cannot See, Experience, Taste / Experience Often CONTRARY

If God Loves Me – WHY? Cancer? Jobless? Divorce? All kinds of Sadness?

Paul moves beyond Promise to FACT > Objective, Provable, GOD gave SON

Visited Israel – Muslims, Jews, Atheists “Jesus was HERE & did THIS...”

Undeniable FACT God stepped into HUMAN HISTORY – Incarnation

Jesus Christ DIVINE SON of God – NO GREATER Gift for OUR Greatest Need
 Argues GREATER to LESSER: If God bought you HOUSE, give Lightbulb
 Not just have HOUSE or NEW COOL SMART PHONE >> ETERNAL Gift
 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the
 Father of lights... James 1.17

Bible Teacher offer Kids \$ 10 think of Promise could have made but Didn't
 Gave Jesus Christ – get ALL THINGS – BLANK CHECK from Heaven

No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and
 he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he
 will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.
 1 Corinthians 10.13

No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is
 doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I
 have made known to you. John 15.15

I am with you always, to the end of the age. Matthew 28.20

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you
 with my eye upon you. Psalm 32.8

Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints. Psalm 116.15

My God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ
 Jesus. Philippians 4.19

“The cross proves God’s generosity” John Stott

3. We have a Judge

v. 33 Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.

LEGAL QUESTION – Image of Court of LAW

Could POLICEMAN from HELL Knock on DOOR Take us to Eternal PRISON?

Fair Question: Some Places Policeman come in Night and we're Gone!

the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God
Revelation 12.10

Satan GREAT Accuser:

Tells GOD: Do you SEE that Hypocrite, That is No Way for Christian to act!

How can a person do that and still claim to be a Christian?

Do you know what that person is thinking about right Now? In Church!!

Not NEWS to God – Fully AWARE – Knows HOW BAD we Are!

Sent His SON to Save Us – No one Else Could! Never Save Ourselves!!

JUSTIFY = Sin is GONE! Forgiven, Forgotten, and Far, Far Away!!

Amazing Exchange – Rags of Sin for the Righteous Robe of Jesus Christ

Salvation NOT based on OUR Works – Amazing GIFT of Mercy and Grace in X

No Policeman from HELL will DRAG us from God's SECURE BLESSINGS

NEVER HAPPEN in God's Sight – He is our JUDGE who JUSTIFIES

Hey, wait a minute! You are talking about HEAVEN – Life after Death?!

What about NOW – POLICEMAN is Here NOW – Problems are REAL NOW

1000's of Students studying in Beijing – Coming to Church?

VERY FEW – Religion is for OLD PEOPLE – When you are ABOUT DEAD!

NOW – We want to LIVE, have FUN, ENJOY LIFE!!

PROMISES of God – Full Experience LATER – Full BLESSING NOW!!

Know GOD – Loved by HIM – Creator of Universe Dearest COMPANION

Cares about our TODAY and our TOMORROW – Hope, Joy, Purpose of Life

Greatest CONDEMNATION we Face NOW > Our own HEARTS

Not sure WHAT, WHY > Something WRONG, MISSING, EMPTY

Never have PEACE with God until you have been PARDONED by God

4. We have a Friend

v. 34 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.

One Step Further – Is it Possible God MIGHT Change His MIND? Tire of Us?

Move from PAST Work of Jesus to PRESENT Work of Living Savior

4 Reasons to be CERTAIN of our Assurance in Him

1. Christ's Death 2. His Resurrection 3. Enthroned on Right Hand 4. Intercession

DIED – Done, Finished, Payment Made – No need to DOUBT

RISEN – Vindication, Confirmation / Absolute Certainty

GLORY – Prayer John 17 “Father glorify Me” FULFILLED / Seated = DONE

NOW – Not Forgotten, He is not INDIFFERENT, Bored with YOU, Deaf to You

LOVE SHOWN on Cross is FULLY Yours Now in Christ – No Less

We have ADVOCATE / Paraclete “one called alongside to help”

HOLY SPIRIT given by Ascended King Jesus who Now INTERCEDES for Us

LAW OFFICE – 2 Branches – Beijing / Shanghai > HEAVEN & EARTH!

SON – Died for US, Now LIVES for Us – Lives Forever to PRAY for Us

SPIRIT – Present Companion – Brings Love of God into our HEARTS Now

5. Emmanuel

FINAL – ALL-EMBRACING Question...

v. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?

v. 35 Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?

Tribulation – meaning of word linked with PRESSURE

Stalks of GRAIN brought to THRESHING FLOOR Pulverized by Wooden Sled

Sled w/ METAL Edges PRESSED Over and Over Grain to Force Out GRAIN

Perhaps life has PRESSED Continually DOWN on You

ABUSED – ATTACKED – Lost Job, Scholarship, Family Member, ILLNESS

NO Tribulation – No matter how PULVERIZING – Separates from Love of X

Distress – 2 Greek words > NARROW SPACE > CONFINED, Oppressed

DORM Room no Bigger than Telephone Booth > SQUEEZED by Life

Not Enough Money – Bills – No Job Prospects – Cannot GET OUT

Love of Christ will ONE DAY Lift you from that TIGHT CORNER

Persecution – PURSUED by Someone who wants to HARM You

Want to Live for JESUS you WILL Experience Some Persecution

Might be INDIRECT – Overlooked for Advancement, Promotion, Praise

DIRECT – Attack to You, Family, Finances, Future, Job

Jesus “In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”
John 16.33

Famine – Common in Ancient World, Parts of the World TODAY

Drought, Insects, War, Exile > Body wasting Away > God is NEAR

Nakedness – Extreme POVERTY, DESTITUTE, Cannot Meet Basic NEEDS

Danger – Because of the CROSS, Arrested, Followed, Hacked for GOSPEL

Sword – Extreme VIOLENCE – Martyrdom – Paul facing this Sword of Rome

v. 36 “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

KILLING of Christians was COMMON in FIRST Century – will be to FINAL C

More Xtians killed 20th C than previous 19 C’s Combined, Growing 21st C

2016 > 90,000 Christians Killed for Faith – Closing Books on 2017

v. 37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

Not JUST Conqueror – MORE than Conqueror – Final Goal is GLORY of God

vs. 38,39 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.

Death – Most FEARED Adversary we will FACE – Unknown, NO RETURN

“I do not fear death, I just don’t want to be there when it happens” Woody Allen

“Death is swallowed up in victory.” “O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?”...But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
1 Corinthians 15.55-57

Life – May seem Strange – Death leads to Joy, Life in Presence of the Lord

Sometimes it is HARDEST for the People LEFT BEHIND

Live w/ Poverty, Hunger, Illness, Blindness, Limited Energy, Dementia

Angels – DARK Angels who Fell – Teach Another Gospel – Islam, Mormonism

Rulers – Principalities and Politicians who RESIST God and his GOSPEL

things present – Sweeping Statement – Anything you Face in All THIS Life

things to come – Sweeping Statement – Anything you Face in All NEXT Life

X LORD on BOTH SIDES of the CHASM – Life & Death, Today / Tomorrow

powers – Any FORCE Imaginable or Unimaginable tries to Keep you from Jesus

height – Love of God EVERYWHERE – Nowhere to HIDE from Spirit of God!

depth – Travel up to HEAVEN or DOWN to Hell – God is OMNIPRESENT

Anything else in all creation -ANYTHING! Everything that GOD CREATED

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing,
 Were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing:
 Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He;
 Lord Sabaoth, His Name, from age to age the same,
 And He must win the battle. Martin Luther, 1527

Promise of ADVENT > Promise for ETERNITY > God is WITH US

Not Promise Believers WILL Escape PAINS & PROBLEMS of this Life

PROMISE – Never ALONE, Not RANDOM, MEANINGLESS > PURPOSE

Daughters & Sons of God > Faith like GOLD Refined by FIRE of Life

v. 31 What shall YOU say then?? **DIVISIVE**: Separates Believers / Unbelievers
INDIFFERENT? Many Seem to Be – Not For or Against – No Interest
FOOLISHNESS – Crazy Story – Ridiculous Claims

Jesus Uniqueness – Most Influential – Most Arrogant > One & Only God
 Buddha & Muhammed claimed **LEAD** to God > Jesus “I AM Living God”
INFORMATION that Demands a **RESPONSE** – Neutrality Not Option

FINAL FINAL EXAM – Let me Give you **QUESTION** in Advance to Prepare
 God will ask you “What have you done with my Son?”

Champion v. 31/ **Provider** v. 32 / **Judge** v. 33 / **Friend** v. 34 / **Emmanuel** v. 35

There is **NO OTHER** who **LOVES** You like This – No Other who Can **SAVE**
 No One More Important to **KNOW** 2018 and for **ETERNITY**

Romans 8.³¹What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³²He 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? ³³Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who 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. ³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.” ³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor 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.