

## The Gift of Righteousness

ROMANS 8:29-39<sup>1</sup>

“No Accusation! No Condemnation! No Separation!”

### Romans 8:29-30

*For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren;<sup>30</sup> and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.*

- To understand verses 29-30, we have to take each statement in order.
  - “Those whom He foreknew”: This means that God knew ahead of time who would receive Him. It does **NOT** mean He selected ahead of time those who would be saved. It is His will for **all** to believe and be saved.
    - ◆ **2 Peter 3:9**  
*The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but) is patient toward you, **not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.***
  - All those who receive Him are **predestined** to become conformed to the image of His Son.
    - 1 John 4:17**  
*Because as He is, so also are we in this world.*
    - 1 John 3:2**  
*We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.*
    - 2 Corinthians 3:16-18**  
*But whenever a person turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. <sup>17</sup>Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. <sup>18</sup>But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.*
  - These He also called, justified (declared righteous)
  - These He also glorified. Notice the use of the past tense. Also, the fact that it says we were *glorified* is stunning. This word is almost always used in reference to God. This is NOT AT ALL to say that we are gods, but that He esteems us with honor.

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**Romans 8:31-32**

*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?*

• **What shall we say to these things?**

- What shall YOU declare to adversities considering what God has accomplished in YOU?
  - ◆ I cannot be condemned.
  - ◆ I am free from the law of sin and death.
  - ◆ I am in the Spirit not the flesh.
  - ◆ The Spirit of God dwells in me.
  - ◆ The same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead gives life to my mortal body.
  - ◆ He is leading me.
  - ◆ I am united to God by adoption as a son or daughter.
  - ◆ I am a co-heir with Jesus.
  - ◆ I suffer together with Him.
  - ◆ I am and will be glorified together with Him.
  - ◆ The Spirit is together with me supporting me during weakness.
  - ◆ Jesus is interceding for me.
  - ◆ God is partnering and working together with me for my good.
  - ◆ I am predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son.
  - ◆ I am called, justified (declared righteous), and glorified.



## **If God is for me, Who will be against me?**

*The thought of Paul is not in the form of a hypothetical condition, as if it were a question whether God was for us or not. His thought is, "In view of the fact that God is for us, who is or could be against us, so as to do us harm? That is, since God is for the saints, on their side, who can harm them?" Denney explains, "The Christian's faith in providence is an inference from redemption. The same God who did not spare His own Son will freely give us all things . . . It vivifies the impression of God's love through the sense of the sacrifice it made. . . . He who has done so much, is certain to do much more."-Wuest*

◆ **Mark 11:22-23**

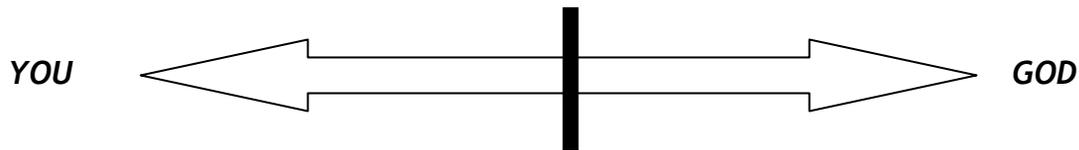
*And Jesus answered saying to them, "Have faith in God. 23 "Truly I say to you, whoever **says** to this mountain, 'Be taken up and cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he **says** is going to happen, it will be granted him.*

- ♦ **2 Corinthians 4:13** (in speaking of Paul's many afflictions in ministry)  
 And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written,  
 "I believed and therefore I spoke," we also believe and therefore speak.

Therefore, we can speak solutions to our weaknesses, trials persecutions, injustices, heartaches. We say that God is for us, and that God is graciously granting us the solution to our problems.

- We say, "God is FOR me, not against me."

Too often we visualize our relationship with God like this.



A more accurate way to see your New Covenant relationship with God is this. You are the circle. There is no longer a distance between you and God. He lives inside of you. He is leading you. He is helping you to carry your burden. He is working together in you and with you in every aspect of your life. He is on your side, at your side, and inside of you. Nothing can separate you from Him, and He has promised to never leave you or forsake you. When you pray, you there somewhere" or as an adversarial force. You KNOW that He lives inside of you and is working His perfect will in you for your good. You can rest in His love.



- This doesn't mean *people* will not come against us. We know that Christians are persecuted. The implication is who could be successful in their attempts to be against us? Even in the ultimate suffering of death we remain His.
  - **Romans 14:8**  
 For if we live, we live for the Lord, or if we die, we die for the Lord; therefore whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.
  - **Isaiah 54:17**  
 No weapon formed against you shall prosper, and every tongue which rises against you in judgment You shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is from Me," says the LORD.
- God surrendered His own Son for us all. How much more now will He freely give us all things?
  - **Freely give = shall be graciously granting**  
 Charizomai: to grant as a favor, that is, gratuitously, in kindness, pardon or rescue: - deliver, (frankly) forgive, (freely) give, grant.
  - He has already surrendered everything, the very best He had. He will certainly not withhold anything else that we need. Now, along with Him, He is graciously granting to us everything. This is done without us paying for it or deserving it. His grace is unmerited. He is not withholding anything from us.

- “Indeed, He who His own Son did not spare, but on behalf of us all delivered Him up, how is it possible that He shall not with Him in grace give us the all things?”-Wuest

### Romans 8:33

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

- “Who” refers to anyone including you, the devil, or any other person.
  - This is not to say that people won’t accuse you and attempt to condemn you, but it means that these efforts will be unsuccessful before God.
- “Bring a charge against” = “indictment; legally accuse of wrong-doing.”
  - *Egkaleo: to call in (as a debt or demand), that is, bring to account (charge, criminate, etc.): - accuse, call in question, implead, lay to the charge.*  
**1 John 2:1**  
*My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.*
- This does not mean that we are exempt from civil authorities.
  - *Romans 13:1-7 (shown here verses 1, 5, 7)*  
*Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. <sup>5</sup> Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience’ sake.*
- God is the one who justifies! “Justifies” means “declares righteous”. No one can be successful in bringing a charge against God’s elect because

*We cannot  
be accused  
because  
God has*

**GOD HAS ALREADY DECLARED US RIGHTEOUS. CASE DIMISSED!!!**

### Romans 8:34

*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.*

- “Condemns” means to “pass an adverse sentence”. We have been set free from the law of sin and death. Since we are dead to the law, we are no longer morally liable to the consequences of not obeying it.
  - *Romans 8:1-2*  
*Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup> For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.*
  - *John 5:24*  
*“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.*

*We cannot be  
condemned  
because Jesus  
paid our penalty*

**Romans 8:35-37**

*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.*

- How can Paul say that we are conquerors if these types of things are happening to us? It is because NONE of these things, **THOUGH THEY ARE EXTREME**, can separate us from the love of Christ.
- When Paul quotes that we are led as sheep to the slaughter, he is referring back to Psalm 44:22-24
  - *But for Your sake we are killed all day long;  
We are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.*
    - <sup>23</sup>*Arouse Yourself, why do You sleep, O Lord?  
Awake, do not reject us forever.*
    - <sup>24</sup>*Why do You hide Your face  
And forget our affliction and our oppression?*
- Notice the perspective of the Old Covenant believer. This person did not have the indwelling presence of God and forgiveness of sins. God seemed far away, as if He were purposely hiding. If this is your concept of God, you need to learn the truth of what was accomplished when the New Covenant was established. God is living inside of you if you are born again. He will at no time and for any reason leave you.



**Hebrews 13:5-6**

*Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." <sup>6</sup> So we may boldly say:*

*"The LORD is my helper;*

*I will not fear.*

*What can man do to me?"*

*The words "He hath said," are intensive in the Greek text, "He Himself hath said." The following promise and guarantee was spoken by God Himself. The word "leave" is not the usual word which means "to leave," leipo, but aniemi "to send back, to relax, to loosen, not to uphold, to let sink." It is preceded by two negatives in the Greek text which in English make a positive, but which in Greek only serve to strengthen the negation. It is "I will not, I will not cease to sustain and uphold thee." The word "forsake" is a compound of three Greek words, egkataleipo, eg meaning "in," kata meaning "down," and Leipo meaning "to leave." Leipo has the idea of forsaking one, kata suggests rejection, defeat, helplessness, and eg refers to some place or circumstance in which a person may find himself helpless, forsaken. The meaning of the word is that of forsaking someone in a state of defeat or helplessness in the midst of hostile circumstances. The word in its totality means "to abandon, desert, leave in straits, leave helpless, leave destitute, leave in the lurch, let one down." There are three negatives before this word, making the promise one of triple assurance. It is, "I will not, I will not, I will not let thee down, leave thee in the lurch, leave thee destitute, leave thee in straits and helpless, abandon thee." All of which means that our God will come to our rescue when we find ourselves in difficult circumstances. -Wuest*

- Even during the worst of the worst times, when it looks like God is hidden from us or asleep, or rejecting us, His Spirit continues to woo us, and His love is always towards us, and we overwhelmingly conquer!
- Even during persecution and difficulties that arise, we “OVERWHELMINGLY CONQUER THROUGH HIM WHO LOVED US.”
- “Perhaps it is a mistake to define in what the 'more' consists; but if we do, the answer must be sought on the line indicated in the note on 'for thy sake we were killed all the day long'; these trials not only do not cut us off from Christ's love, they actually give us more intimate and thrilling experience of it.” *Wuest's Word Studies*
  - **2 Timothy 3:10-11 NKJV**  
*But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, <sup>11</sup> persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra—what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me.*
  - **Acts 14:19-20**  
*But Jews came from Antioch and Iconium, and having won over the crowds, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing him to be dead. <sup>20</sup> But while the disciples stood around him, he got up and entered the city. The next day he went away with Barnabas to Derbe.*
  - **2 Corinthians 4:16-18 NKJV**  
*Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. <sup>17</sup> For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, <sup>18</sup> while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.*
- Who or what will dare to bring an accusation against you, condemn you, or separate you from the Love of Christ?
- Jesus is interceding for us by His very presence with His wounds in heaven.
- God has justified us (declared us righteous/innocent), and He can't justify and accuse us at the same time.
  - **2 Corinthians 5:21**  
*He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

### **Romans 8:38**

*For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup> 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.*

- “Having shown that God's great love to us is such that none can accuse nor harm us, the apostle now asserts the permanence of that love under all adverse circumstances – that none such can affect it, – nay more, that it is by that love that we are enabled to obtain the victory over all such adversities. -Wuest

- "I am persuaded" is *peithō*, perfect in tense, "I have come through a process of persuasion to a settled conclusion."-Wuest
- Life, death spiritual beings, current life, future problems, can not separate you from God's love for you!
- NO, NOT EVEN YOU CAN SEPARATE YOU FROM THE LOVE OF GOD because it says, "nor any other created thing", which includes you. NOTHING AND NO ONE CAN SEPARATE US FROM GOD'S LOVE.

As to "things present," Bengel says, "Things are not mentioned, not even sins, for they have passed away."-Wuest

**If YOU or your SIN  
could separate you from God's love,  
then you are doomed for failure.  
It would have been better to drown you  
at the moment of water baptism.**



- You must know and Believe God's love for you!  
*1 John 4:16*  
We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him
- What shall we say to these things then? God is for us and His provision is continual and super abundant!
- It all comes back to God's love for us that He demonstrated by sending His Son.  
*John 3:16*  
"For God so **LOVED** the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.  
*2 Corinthians 13:14*  
The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the **LOVE** of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.  
*Ephesians 2:4-5*  
But God, being rich in mercy, because of His **GREAT LOVE** with which He **LOVED** us, <sup>5</sup>even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved).  
*Ephesians 3:17-19*  
So that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in **LOVE**, <sup>18</sup> may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, <sup>19</sup> and to know the **LOVE** of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.

• **Romans 5:8**

*But God demonstrates (is demonstrating, is yet exhibiting, is commending) His own LOVE toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

- Many believers today seek signs demonstrating God's love for them in the form of metaphysical manifestations. They are often not fully aware of God's love and grace toward them and abiding presence in them.
- God demonstrates (present tense) His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. This is how God shows His love for us. This is sufficient. Not believing in this love and seeking additional signs that God loves you is a lack of faith in the demonstration He has already given which is an affront to the cross of Jesus.

**Titus 3:4-7**

*But when the kindness and the LOVE of God our Savior toward man appeared, <sup>5</sup> not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup> whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup> that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.*

