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**Calvary Church: Coordinated Curriculum 2007-2008**
**Romans: The Transforming Power of the Righteousness of God**


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**Mark Your Observations**
**Record Observations &  
Questions**


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**Romans 8:31-39**

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

**Review**

In Romans 6 Paul taught us that as a result of God's grace through faith, we have freedom from sin's controlling power.

In Romans 7 Paul reveals the internal struggle of those who seek by self-effort to live-up to their position in Christ.

Both chapter 6 and 7 are true—great freedom, great struggle on our own. Which leads Paul to encourage and explain the believers present reality (Romans 8:1-11), present empowerment (8:12-17), potential for suffering (8:18-25) and the hope of future glorification (8:26-30) which includes God's purpose for believers—transformation.

## Introduction



Think about it



Talk about it

### 8:31-34

**Question #1:** “What then shall we say to these things?” (8:31)

*The point:* We should say something! In light of the fact that “there is no condemnation” (8:1), the provision of the Holy Spirit (8:4-27), and the sovereignty of God in salvation (8:28-30)—Don’t keep silent, praise God.

God’s revelation requires response. Praise. Thanksgiving. Worship.

**Question #2:** “If God is for us, who can be against us?” (8:31)

*The point:* Clearly implied is that, if God is for us, no one can be against us with success.

**Question #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?” (8:32 ESV)

*The point:* God has already given the greatest Gift. There is no reason that He would withhold anything from those who are in Christ.

**Question #4:** “Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. (8:33)

On the surface the answer seems incomplete.

*The point* is that since God alone justifies, no one can successfully bring a charge (make it stick) against God’s elect.

No charge can be brought against the Christian because God has already pronounced a verdict of not guilty.

**Question #5:** “Who is to condemn?”

*The point:*

Since Christ intercedes for us, He would not—could not—bring a condemning charge against us.

Since Christ is at the right hand of the Father and intercedes for us and since He died to remove the curse and condemnation, there is none who could bring a condemning word against those in Christ.

### 8:35-39

**Questions #6 and 7:** “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?”

“Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? (8:35 ESV)

8:36-39 answer

Quote in 8:36 from Psalm 44:22

*Answer* absolutely nothing.

## The nature of salvation

Who conceived of salvation?	God (Ephesians 1:3-14 particularly v. 4; Romans 8:28-30)
Who provided for salvation?	
Who enacted salvation?	God, through the death of Christ and the conviction/regeneration by the Spirit (Romans 3:21-26; 5:1-2, 9, 11; Titus 3:5)
Who is able to ensure salvation?	God, Christ and the Spirit (1 Peter 1: 3-5; John 6:39-40; Ephesians 4:20)



## Implications/Application

"I have held many things in my hands, and have lost them all; but whatever I have placed in God's hands, that I still possess."<sup>1</sup>

"The biblical representation of the believer's role in perseverance allows no room whatsoever for passivity, moral carelessness, easy-believism, or antinomianism. The Christian strives for godliness as if everything depended on him or her, while confident that the outcome ultimately rests in God."<sup>2</sup>

By way of warning—there is a difference between security and assurance and between security and perseverance. When one who claimed to be a Christian no longer gives evidence that he or she is a Christian, it does call into question the reality of their relationship with God. We however can not know the heart. If we know someone who has wandered from the Lord, we should pursue them. God is able to keep His own, but not all who think they are His are (Matthew 7:22-23)

## Key Point

Secure in God



What do we learn  
About God?

Faithful  
Powerful



Act on it

For some, the best application of this passage would be to memorize it and memorize other significant statements about security like: John 10:27-29 and 1 John 5:13

For some, the best application of this passage will be to, after meditating on it—to thank God for His forgiveness and longsuffering mercy. To allow the truths of this passage, and the whole of Romans 8, to serve to assure—remove guilt—and provide a basis for understanding and living the abundant life God has promised.

For some, the best application of this passage will be confession—confession that they have taken God's grace for granted. That rather than the certainty of their salvation motivating their obedience, they have allowed it to cause passivity in their relationship with God and others.

If we know someone, in our circle of influence who has wandered far from God—don't give them assurance. Challenge them, as Paul would say, to "repent and turn to God, performing deeds appropriate to repentance" (Acts 26:20), the very words that Jesus spoke to the self-righteous religious leaders of Israel.

Matthew 3:8 "Therefore bear fruit in keeping with repentance" (NASB95)

<sup>1</sup> Martin Luther (1483-1546) at the Commemoration of Bridget of Sweden, Abbess of Vadstena.

<sup>2</sup> Bruce Demarest, *The Cross and Salvation* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 1997), p. 450,