

## Miscellaneous

### ***Four Truths That Can See You Through Any Trial***

**December 4, 2011**

**Text - Romans 8:28-39**

**Scripture Recitation - Romans 8:28-39**

Visitor's comment on Thanksgiving

- It's amazing what your people are going through
  - Made my problems see small
  - For some problems peeking in past two weeks
  - For others the hits just keep on coming
- It's amazing that they can still be so thankful in the midst of it
  - It's so encouraging
- Nothing speaks louder to the reality, goodness, and power of God than when His people can *truly* give thanks in *all* circumstances.
- No passage of Scripture better equips us to do this than Romans 8:28-39.

### **Four truths that can see you through any trial**

Two qualifiers

- I used "can" instead of "will" very intentionally
  - These truths will only help you if you embrace them.
- We're only taking a very brief bird's eye view of what many believe to be the greatest passage of Scripture in the Bible.

In all things God works for the good of those who love Him who have been called according to His purpose.

- Just think about that for a minute...
  - In ALL things God works for the GOOD
    - Get a job, lose a job
    - Begin a relationship, end a relationship
    - Get a disease, healed of a disease
    - Avoid a sin, fall into it
- Note: this promise is not for everyone.
  - How do you know if you've been called according to His purpose?
- How in the world can this be true, because it sure doesn't feel like it?

- o According to His purpose
- What is the purpose to which God has called us?
  - o Verse 29
  - o God's purpose is our sanctification
- In ALL things God is working for our GOOD!!!

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

- NO ONE!!!
- How do we know God is for us? Paul gives us two powerful answers to this very important question, one in verses 29-30 and the other in verse 32.
  - o What then shall we say in response to this? (v. 31)
    - The golden chain of verses 29-30
  - o For those God *foreknew*...
    - Some people think that *foreknew* here means that God knew beforehand who would choose Him and that the rest of the blessings of the golden chain are based on that foreknowledge. It seems to me that that understanding is based more on their theological understanding of salvation than on the immediate context.
    - It seems clear to me that in this context "*foreknew*" is used in a relational sense that as the ESV Study Bible puts it, "reaches back to the OT where the word "know" emphasizes God's special choice or covenantal affection for His people."
    - **Romans 11:2 (NIV)**  
<sup>2</sup>God did not reject his people, whom he foreknew.
    - Because God foreknew the people of Israel, He did not reject them, even though He also foreknew that they would reject Him.
  - o He also *predestined* to be conformed to the image of His Son...
    - In other words, God predetermined that those He chose beforehand would become like Jesus, and once God predetermines something He will make sure that it comes about.
  - o Those He predestined He also *called*

- Many are called but those whom God foreknows and predestines are called in an effectual way.
  - Those He called He also *justified*
  - Those He justified He also *glorified*
- But if that isn't enough to convince us that God is for us, Paul adds this in verse 32...
  - What then shall we say...
- If God is for us who can be against us? NO ONE!!!

Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen?

- NO ONE!!!
- The devil loves to try and make us think differently. He loves to try and condemn us, and make us doubt that God's love for us
  - **Zechariah 3:1 (NIV)**  
<sup>1</sup>Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right side to accuse him.
- He does this in a variety of ways
  - Unbelievers - Who see the hypocrisy in our lives and brazenly say, "You call yourself a Christian! You talk just like me, you get angry just like me, you're selfish just like me."
  - Believers - Who see the hypocrisy in our lives and more subtly say, "You call yourself a Christian? You should be more, you should do more, you should love more."
  - Ourselves - We see the hypocrisy in our lives and inwardly say, "You call yourself a Christian, you talk just like them, you get angry just like them, you're selfish just like them, you should be more, you should do more, you should love me, I can't believe you did that again, how can God possibly love you?"
- Ex. What has kept you from coming consistently?
  - I feel bad
- It is God who justifies
  - **Zechariah 3:2-5 (NIV)**  
<sup>2</sup>The Lord said to Satan, "The Lord rebuke you, Satan! The Lord, who has chosen Jerusalem, rebuke you! Is not this man a burning stick snatched from the fire?" <sup>3</sup> Now

Joshua was dressed in filthy clothes as he stood before the angel. <sup>4</sup> The angel said to those who were standing before him, "Take off his filthy clothes." Then he said to Joshua, "See, I have taken away your sin, and I will put rich garments on you." <sup>5</sup> Then I said, "Put a clean turban on his head." So they put a clean turban on his head and clothed him, while the angel of the Lord stood by.

- Who is he that condemns? (NIV) Who is to condemn? (ESV)
  - o NO ONE!!!
  - o **Romans 8:34 (NLT)**  
<sup>34</sup> Who then will condemn us? No one—for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God's right hand, pleading for us.
  - o **Romans 8:1 (ESV)**  
<sup>1</sup> There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.
- In light of this Conviction is from God and motivates us to change. Condemnation is from the devil and causes us to stay the same.
- Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? NO ONE!!!

#### Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?

- Quite a list (Shall trouble, or hardship,...)
- As it is written, *for your sake...*
  - o Jesus never said following Him would be easy
    - Take up your cross...
    - Unless you hate...
    - Whoever would save his life...
    - If the world hates you...
    - In this world...
- Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble....?
  - o NO!!!, in all these things we are MORE than conquerors...
- For I am *convinced...*

#### **Conclusion**

- If you love God, then all four of these truths are for you!  
Embrace them they will see you through any trial.
- If you don't love God, then pray and ask Him to change your heart and begin to seek Him with all your heart today.