

**“Facing the Unknown with Confidence”
Romans 8:28 - 39**

Big Idea – I know that God is always working for His glory and my good!

When you look into the future, what do you see? Every single one of us sees nothing for certain. The future is unknown. We all think we'd like to know what tomorrow holds for us, but not really....Why not?

People attempt to discover the future in many strange ways, but only God holds all the answers. Only He knows His plans for us.

When we think of the future, there are so many unknowns. How can we live every day with so many unanswered questions? How can we have the peace and confidence we need, in the midst of so much uncertainty?

Romans 8:28-39 is filled with reasons why we can live with assurance from God when so much is unknown. Paul writes, “If God is for us, who is against us?” (verse 31).

So, how can I face an unknown future with God?

We **know** that:

1. God is always working – vs. 28 – All things!

He's working whether we see Him working or not. God is working!

His promise and purpose is to work it out for our good and His glory

2. God predestined us to be like His Son Jesus Christ – vs. 29

It started in eternity past when He chose us in Christ (Eph. 1:4-5).

He predetermined that one day we would be like His Son.

Predestination applies only to saved people. Nowhere are we taught that God predestines people to be eternally condemned. If they are condemned, it is because of their refusal to trust Christ (John 3:18-21).

3. He chose us to be like Christ, and He called us – vs. 30

(2 Thes. 2:14) by the preaching of the Gospel

2 Thessalonians 2:14 God used the Good News that we preached to call you to be saved so you can share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 1:21 For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

He justified us – Romans 5:1 – by faith – God sees me just like I never sinned!

He also glorified us. This means that the believer has already been glorified in Christ (John 17:22)

We will see it as reality when He appears (1 John 3:2)

4. He is For us – vs. 31

The Father is for us and proved it by giving His Son (Rom. 8:32). The Son is for us (Rom. 8:34) and so is the Spirit (Rom. 8:26).

God is making all things work for us (Rom. 8:28). In His person and His providence, God is for us.

God's Providence! Not luck! We are Providentially blessed.

Sometimes, like Jacob, we lament, "All these things are against me" (Gen. 42:36), when actually everything is working for us.

The conclusion is obvious: "If God be for us, who can be against us?"

5. Christ died for us (v. 32).

If when we were sinners, God gave us His best, now that we are God's children, won't He give us all that we need?

Jesus used this same argument when He tried to convince people that it was foolish to worry and fear. God cares for the birds and sheep, and even for the lilies surely He will care for you! God is dealing with His own on the basis of Calvary grace, not on the basis of Law. God freely gives all things to His own!

Matthew 6:26 Look at the birds in the air. They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns, but your heavenly Father feeds them. And you know that you are worth much more than the birds.

6. God has justified us (v. 33).

This means that He has declared us righteous in Christ

Satan would like to accuse us (Zech. 3:1-7 Rev. 12:10) another name for Satan is ACCUSER! but we stand righteous in Jesus Christ.

We are God's elect—chosen in Christ and accepted in Christ.

God will certainly not accuse us since it is He who has justified us. For Him to accuse us would mean that His salvation was a failure and we are still in our sins.

Understanding the meaning of justification brings peace to our hearts. When God declares the believing sinner righteous in Christ, that declaration never changes.

2 Corinthians 5:21

Explain difference between justification and sanctification (Our Christian experience changes from day to day, but justification never changes).

Sanctified – set apart, made holy, made righteous

Positional Sanctification – My Position “in Christ” - perfect like Him

Practical Sanctification – My Practice – challenge of being a Christian is to make my “practice” match my “position” – how?

John 17:17 Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

John 17:17 Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is truth.

Total Sanctification – 1 John 3:2 “when He (Jesus) appears we will be like Him...”

We may accuse ourselves, and men may accuse us; but God will never take us to court and accuse us. Jesus has already paid the penalty and we are secure in Him.

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.

2 And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

1 John 2:1 – when we sin we have an advocate, a lawyer, Jesus Christ

7. Christ intercedes for us (v. 34).

A dual intercession keeps the believer secure in Christ: the Spirit intercedes (Rom. 8:26-27) and the Son of God intercedes (Rom. 8:34).

The same Savior who died for us is now interceding for us in heaven. As our High Priest, He can give us the grace we need to overcome temptation and defeat the enemy (Heb. 4:14-16).

As our Advocate, He can forgive our sins and restore our fellowship with God (1 John 1:9-2:2). Intercession means that Jesus Christ represents us before the throne of God and we do not have to represent ourselves.

Paul hinted at this ministry of intercession in Romans 5:9-10. We are not only saved by His death, but we are also saved by His life.

"Therefore He is able to save completely those who come to God through Him, because He always lives to intercede for them" (Heb. 7:25, NIV).

Peter sinned against the Lord, but he was forgiven and restored to fellowship because of Jesus Christ. "Simon, Simon, listen! Satan has asked permission to sift all of you like wheat, but I have prayed especially for you that your own faith may not utterly fail" (Luke 22:31-32).

He is interceding for each of us, a ministry that assures us that we are secure.

8. Christ loves us (vv. 35-39). In Romans 8:31-34 Paul proved that God cannot fail us, but is it possible that we can fail Him? Suppose some great trial or temptation comes, and we fail? Then what? Paul deals with that problem in this final section and explains that nothing can separate us from the love of Jesus Christ.

To begin with, God does not shelter us from the difficulties of life because we need them for our spiritual growth (Rom. 5:3-5). In Romans 8:28 God assures us that the difficulties of life are working for us and not against us. God permits trials to come that we might use them for our good and His glory.

We endure trials for His sake (Rom. 8:36), and since we do, do you think that He will desert us? Of course not! Instead, He is closer to us when we go through the difficulties of life.

He gives us the power to conquer (Rom. 8:37). We are "more than conquerors," literally, "we are super-conquerors" through Jesus Christ! He gives us victory and more victory! We need not fear life or death, things present or things to come, because Jesus Christ loves us and gives us the victory. This is not a promise with conditions attached: "If you do this, God will do that." This security in Christ is an established fact, and we claim it for ourselves because we are in Christ. Nothing can separate you from His love! Believe it—and rejoice in it!

This whole chapter shows we are free from judgment because Christ died for us and we have His righteousness. We are free from defeat because Christ lives in us by His Spirit and we share His life. We are free from discouragement because Christ is coming for us and we shall share His glory. We are free from fear because Christ intercedes for us and we cannot be separated from His love.

No condemnation! No obligation! No frustration! No separation!

If God be for us, who can be against us!

