

Glen Park Gospel Church  
**Tuesday Evening Bible Study Group Notes**

Rev Chris Trinham

Studies in Romans Series 4

No 19

### The Believer's Security.

Scripture Reading: Romans 8:31-39

"What then shall we say to these things?" asks Paul. What things? The things he has just been talking about; that we have been called by God for His purpose, set apart to be transformed to His likeness, declared just, and acknowledged as God's own sons. Are there any things that compare with these? Think about them, meditate on them, rejoice in them, glory in them. They are your inheritance and birthright in Christ.

This passage deals with two main themes. First, what God has done for those whom He has called, and second, the impossibility of the Evil One and his host to shake from us our inheritance in Christ.

**Your Security as a Christian.** "If God be for us, who can be against us." Know this. God is for us.

First, Our security is in God Himself who chose us. He did it for His own purpose, his own plan, his own will; for that is what the Bible teaches. God in His sovereign will has chosen to redeem all those whom He knew would trust in Christ.

Second our security is in our accepting His offer, for His offer is open to all. His invitation is unconditional:

And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that hears say, Come. And let him that is thirsty come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely. Revelation 22:17.

This is the last invitation in the Bible. It is to 'whosoever will'. We have His word and He cannot break His word. Rest then in the purpose of God and the glad response of your own heart.

**Your Security is Confirmed by God's Ongoing Blessing.** "If God be for us . . . how will He not also (in addition to) with Him freely give us all things." Verses 31 and 32 ought to be read together.

Kenneth Wuest tells is the 'If' in v31

is 'a conditional particle of a fulfilled condition'. Sound too technical? Just read the word as, 'because'. Because we have accepted Jesus as our Saviour and that salvation cost God all that He could do to accomplish, and because it is His purpose to make us His sons (and daughters), will He not also lavish upon us the blessings of His love. He is well able, for He is God. Nothing can separate us from that love, and the providence of that love.

There is a word in the Greek text that is not translated into most English versions. Verse 32 should read:

*'He who even did not spare His own Son but delivered Him up for us all -'*

God did all He could. He *even* sent His own Son.

That He has done so much v34, ensures that He will do so much more. He who died (past tense) was also raised (past tense) is the one (present tense) who is at God's right hand and intercedes for us.

We ought not shrink from bringing our needs to Him. The ongoing blessing of God is a guarantee of His eternal favour.

**Who Can Be Against Us?** There are three sub-questions which extend from this. They are:

First, 'Who will bring a charge against God's elect? v33.

Second, Who is the one who condemns? v34.

Third, Who will separate us from the love of Christ? v35.

The answer to each is the same, Satan and his host who array themselves against the Lord God and His anointed both in Heaven and on earth.

This has happened since the days of Cain who hated his own brother Abel, whose sacrifice was acceptable whereas Cain's was not. Nothing is new. Men more than ever in history prefer darkness because their deeds are evil. Paul knew what it was to suffer the rejection of men because he dared to trust the Saviour.

Compare our text with his testimony:

Romans 8:35 *Shall: trouble;* (distress, oppression, tribulation) and translated sufferings in Romans 5:3 NIV.

They are the things we endure because of the Gospel. It is the same word Jesus used in Matthew 13:21;

*or distress;* (hardship or difficulty). The word indicates being in a narrow place, nowhere to move. See 2 Corinthians 6:4 & 12:10.

Look it up;

*or persecution;* the word means 'to run swiftly to catch' thus also to pursue. They are after me! Trouble and persecution go together;

*or hunger;* (famine, starvation). Does not Christ provide for His own. He who fed the five thousand on the shore of Galilee, who feeds the sparrow knows how to feed you. However sometimes He allows His people

to suffer hunger in the course of our witness to the Gospel. This accords with 1 Corinthians 4:11-14. Read it;

*or nakedness;* that is, inadequate clothing.

When imprisoned for long periods Paul needed extra warm clothing which his jailors did not provide. 2 Timothy 4:13.

*or danger* (risk taking) 2 Corinthians 11:23-28.

Paul did not invite trouble, in fact he avoided it if possible;

*or the sword;* soldiers lethal short sword (Ephesians 6:17). It was used in both defence and offence and was deadly in close combat. It was used for keeping the peace (Romans 13:4). Paul knew what it was to be taken in by the authorities for imprisonment with or without trial.

Paul knew what it meant to suffer for his faith and ministry, what he called the 'fellowship of his sufferings' Philippians 3:10.

Paul's answer to suffering was to bear it with patience in expectation that the Lord Jesus will set to right:

Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, '*Vengeance is mine, I will repay,*' says the Lord. Romans 12:19

The world's religions work on the pay-back system. It is a power play, getting one up on the other person. Christians seek to restore peace by absorbing the pain and use other strategies.

It is the way the Saviour went, and the way He taught his disciples. See Matthew 10:16-23 for what Jesus told them to do. Look it up.

**Your Security is in Christ Jesus.**

Just as our victory over sin and self is in Christ, so also is our victory over Satan and the hostility of the world.

## Welcome

Glen Park Gospel Church

Lower Road, Eltham North

Sundays 10.30 am

These notes may be reproduced in part or in full when distributed without cost, if the words 'Used by Permission, Glen Park Gospel Church.' is included