



“Who shall lay anything to the charge of God’s elect? It is God that justifieth” (Romans 8:33).

Eternally Secure

Truth: The saved person is eternally secure because he has been saved through the power of the eternal God.

Text: Romans 8:28-39

“We believe that such only are real believers as endure unto the end. Their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors. A special providence watches over their welfare since they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation” (Cobb's Baptist Church Manual, page 80).

The teaching that the person who trusts Christ is eternally secure is a most blessed Christian doctrine. It is misunderstood by multitudes as being conducive to sin. Not so. It is a call to holiness instead. The Christian doctrine of salvation is that Jesus Christ delivers the believer from condemnation and from falling.

Romans 8:28-39 is one of the finest passages of Scripture dealing with the subject of security. Five profound assertions are made in verses 28, 29. Then five profound questions are raised and answered in verses 30-39. The truth to be learned is that there is no separation for the believer from the redemptive purpose of God's love given to us in Jesus Christ. The saved person is eternally secure. Hallelujah!

I. PURPOSE (Romans 8:28-30)

A. God is working His purpose in the world. He has a divine plan *“which God ordained before the world unto our glory”* (I Corinthians 2:7). The divine plan *“was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, but is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ”* (II

Timothy 1:9, 10). Nothing can stop the fulfillment of the purpose of God. *"He doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?"* (Daniel 4:35).

B. God's great purpose covers every detail of life. He makes *"all things work together for good"* (verse 28). The seeming good and the seeming bad are alike under His control and subject to His sovereign purpose.

C. God's special purpose is related to His special people. Not all people can claim His special providence (verse 28).

1. God's people are those who love Him. They have the love of God broadcast in their hearts by the Holy Spirit (Romans 5:5). They dwell in love because they dwell in God and God dwells in them (1 John 4:16, 17). Their love is God loving through them.

2. God's people are those who are called according to His purpose (Acts 9:15; Ephesians 1:11, 12; John 15:16). They have responded to His effectual call to do His will.

D. God's purpose moves systematically from eternity to eternity (verses 29, 30). It begins with His knowing and planning before time began, reaching through the ages of time, and ends in eternity beyond time. His purpose is summarized in five words: *foreknow, predestinate, called, justified, glorified*. On the basis of His foreknowledge and purpose God marked off in advance (predestinated) those whom He would call effectually to Jesus Christ and whom He would justify upon their repentance and faith with the certainty of presenting them to himself in glory. All those verbs are in a grammatical form which indicates completed action. The ultimate glory of the believer is so certain God speaks of it as if it were already done. That is the security of the believer!

II. SUBSTITUTION (Romans 8:31)

The *"if"* of the statement, *"If God be for us,"* does not indicate uncertainty. It is the condition of fact: God is for us. We might read it, *"Since God is for us, who can be against us?"*

The word *"for"* is a key to the verse. It is a word of substitution. For God to be *"for"* us means He takes our place. Just as Jesus took our place and died *"for"* us on the cross, so God takes our place and stands *"for"* us in Christian living. *"The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace"* (Exodus 14:14). That is the normal life for one who trusts God.

"When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift

up a standard against him” (Isaiah 59:19).

Think of it! The enemy comes against us and meets God instead. God standing in our place, taking our part, says, *“The battle is not your's, but God's. . . . Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the LORD with you”* (II Chronicles 20:15, 17). That is the basis of our security. We are *“kept by the power of God”* (1 Peter 1:5). Praise the Lord!

III. PROVISION (Romans 8:32)

Here is the beautiful logic of God's preserving care of His children. Paul argues from the greater to the lesser. God did the greatest thing, making the greatest possible sacrifice for us, when we were in the very act of sinning (Romans 5:8). The gift of His only begotten Son is the most costly gift He could ever present. It is His *“unspeakable gift”* (II Corinthians 9:15). And it was given to us in love before we were saved (John 3:16).

How much lesser will any gift be which is necessary to our Christian lives? Whatever is involved in the *“all things”* God gives, it will be less than what He has already given.

Do not think that what God has given already might not be enough and that He may be called to make an even more costly gift to keep us saved. Not at all. He has already made sufficient provision: *“according as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue”* (II Peter 1:3). The provisions are already ours. In Jesus Christ we have all we need to live and be godly. He has made certain we have enough. Rejoice!

IV. JUSTIFICATION (Romans 8:33)

To be justified means to be declared righteous, to be acquitted. God justifies us in Jesus Christ because Jesus has paid the debt of our sin and it is no longer set against us who trust Him.

A. God justifies the believer. It sounds almost too good to be true, but God *“justifieth the ungodly”* person who trusts Him (Romans 4:5). That justifying act of God is not at the abuse of justice, however. We are *“justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus . . . that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus”* (Romans 3:24, 26). It was God's purpose all the way to *“Justify the heathen through faith”* in Jesus (Galatians 3:8). Everyone who trusts Jesus is

justified.

B. No one can condemn the person God has justified. So the question is asked, “Who is qualified to bring a charge of condemnation against one of us whom God has chosen?” “It is God himself who has pronounced us righteous.” He who would condemn one whom God has justified must be greater than God.

None is greater than God. He is judge of the whole earth. There is no court of appeal from His verdict. He says, *“I am God, and there is none else”* (Isaiah 45:22). *“None can stay his hand, or say unto him. What doest thou?”* (Daniel 4:35). Take heart, fellow Christian. God has justified you (declared you to be righteous in Jesus Christ) and no person or power is qualified to condemn what God has justified. Rejoice in your security in Christ.

V. INTERCESSION (Romans 8:34)

A. Jesus Christ is on our side. The verse makes four statements concerning Him, the fourth based on the first three. 1. Jesus has died for us. Read the account of the crucifixion in Matthew 27, Mark 15, Luke 23, and John 19. Read the explanation of the death of Jesus in the epistles. Notice the recurring theme of Romans 5:6, 8, 10, *“Christ died for the ungodly. . . . Christ died for us. . . . We were reconciled to God by the death of his Son.”* One of the clearest teachings of the New Testament is that Christ died for sinners.

2. Christ has risen up from death. Read the account in the Gospels. His resurrection proved Him to be the Son of God and made Him our Savior (Romans 1:4; 5:10). He arose to live forever, never to die again (Revelation 1:18).

3. Christ is sitting at the right hand of God, returning there when He ascended back to heaven (Mark 16:19). He observes all events of earth from that place (Acts 7:55, 56). We are risen with Christ and our interests are *“where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God”* (Colossians 3:1).

4. Christ makes perfect intercession for us there. He entered into heaven for the express purpose *“to appear in the presence of God for us”* (Hebrews 9:24). He is there on our behalf and for our benefit. *“He ever liveth to make intercession”* (Hebrews 7:25), so His ministry will not end and leave us in need. *“If any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father. Jesus Christ the righteous: and he is the propitiation for our sins”* (1 John 2:1, 2).

B. None can have greater influence with God than Jesus. He has perfect access in love to the Father. He has died for the ones in whose behalf

He intercedes. He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God (Romans 8:27). Jesus will keep us safe in His grace. He stands up on our behalf.

VI. LOVE (Romans 8:35-39)

We are safe as long as God still loves us. It was love which moved Him to give Jesus as the sacrifice for our sins. And it is love which keeps Him kindly disposed toward us as believers in Jesus. Can anything turn God's love away from us?

A. Physical sufferings cannot keep us from the love of God. In verses 35, 36 there is listed every possible kind of physical hardship: trouble from opposition, anguish of spirit, pursuit so as to put to flight, lack of food and clothing, dangers, and even death. Neither one of them nor all of them will turn away God's love for us. *"In all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us"* (verse 37).

B. Spiritual forces cannot turn the love of God from us. Verses 38, 39 list every possible spiritual enemy of our souls. Consider things in the realm of human existence (*"life," "death"*), things in the supernatural realm (*"angels," "principalities;" "powers"*), things in the realm of time (*"things present," "things to come"*), things in the expanse of space (*"height," "depth"*), things in the whole realm of creation (*"nor any other creature"*). We may well conclude that there is nothing in the spiritual realm, not even the devil himself, who can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ.

"I am persuaded" (verse 38) is a statement from the court of law. It refers to the verdict given when all the facts have been presented and the evidence evaluated. Look at the facts as presented in Holy Scripture and you will conclude that the believer in Jesus is eternally secure. And that puts us on shouting ground!

1. What is "the security of the believer"?
2. What is God's purpose according to Romans 8:29?
3. How is that purpose given to us "in Christ Jesus"?
4. For whom do all things work together for good?
5. Trace the five steps of divine purpose in Romans 8:29, 30.
6. What is meant by "if God be for us"?
7. What is God's provision according to II Peter 1:3?
8. What does Romans 3:24-26 say about justification?
9. Why does Jesus intercede for us?

10. What assurance do you find in Romans 8:35-39?