**Lesson 23: Secure in Christ’s Love**

Text: Romans 8:31-38

**Introduction**

Life in a fallen world is a heavy load. When it seems that the burdens will surely crush us, the Holy Spirit comes to our aid. He helps us in our state of weakness. When we do not know what to pray, the Spirit intercedes for us according to God’s will. In addition to the Spirit’s intercession, we have the hope that God is working in us according to His eternal plan. He is constantly at work in the life of the believer to conform him or her into the image of His dear Son. It is according to this predetermined plan that God works out all things for our good. Believers have been called, justified, and glorified. Our future is secure and we have help for today. Embracing such tremendous truth will lead you to say with Paul, “If God be for us, who can be against us?” (Rom. 8:31). In this final lesson from Romans 8, we will see that Paul rejoiced in the security of God’s love. He used seven questions to demonstrate that there is absolutely NO question regarding the security of the believer.

1. **Paul rejoiced in the believer’s future standing before God at the final judgment. (v. 31-34)**
   1. “What shall we then say to these things?” His reference to “these things” definitely includes the blessings he has just described in chapter 8. It is possible that he is looking back to all that he has communicated since the beginning of his letter. Either way, he is clearly overwhelmed with the fact of God’s love.
   2. Paul used a number of judicial terms in this section: “delivered him up” (v. 32), “charge” (v. 33), “justifieth” (v. 33), and “condemneth” (v. 34). By doing so, he is referring to our case before God.
   3. Since God is for us, nothing can effectively be against us. (v. 31)
      1. The believer does not have to fear the time when he or she will stand before God at the final judgment. You don’t have to wait until the end to know how the proceedings are going to go regarding your eternal state.
      2. The Bible’s teaching regarding justification by faith means that you can rest assured that your future is secure. Your case has already been settled! You are free from condemnation through Jesus Christ.
   4. We know that God is for us because He gave His Son on our behalf! (v. 32)
      1. In Genesis 22:12, Abraham did not withhold his son Isaac. It foreshadowed the time that God would not spare His Son. Isaac was spared that day on Mount Moriah because God provided a substitute. We were spared on Mount Calvary because God provided His only begotten Son as our substitute.
      2. Rather than sparing His Son, the Father “delivered Him up.” This means that He handed Him over to die in our place. If He went to such great lengths to secure our salvation, it would be inconceivable that He would neglect to give us what we need in the Christian life. He freely gives us all things! (2 Pet. 1:3-4)
      3. “The argument here is from the lesser to the greater. If when we were sinners, God gave us His best, now that we are God’s children, will He not give us all that we need?” (Warren Wiersbe)
   5. No charge can stand against the believer. (v. 33) The verb in this verse is future tense. Paul is looking ahead to the final judgment. There are those who could testify against us. In fact, we could mention things that we have said or done that would testify to the fact of our sin. How can Paul then say that all accusations are overruled? “It is God that justifieth.” Remember, you are not justified by your works, but by faith. You are justified on the basis of Jesus’ righteousness. There is no one who can overrule God’s verdict.
   6. Since you are justified by faith, you do not have to fear condemnation. (v. 34)
      1. If your salvation were up to you, there would be reason to fear. There would be reason to wonder if you had done enough to earn God’s favor. There would be reason to be concerned that you may have committed something that would have removed you out of God’s favor.
      2. Since it is Christ who provided the way for you to be saved, you don’t have to fear condemnation. He died on your behalf. He rose again that you might be justified. He is at the right hand of the Father. He is interceding for us as our High Priest!
      3. He ensures that “the justifying verdict for which He died is applied to us in the judgment” (Douglas Moo).
2. **Paul also rejoiced that nothing in our present situation is able to separate us from Christ’s love. (v. 35-38)** 
   1. Not only do you have God’s promise regarding your future state, you also have the promise of victory over present opposition. The basis for this is Christ’s love (v. 35, 37, 39).
   2. You will not encounter a situation that separates you from Christ’s love. (v. 35) The list increases in intensity from trouble to a martyr’s death. Paul is not exaggerating. He experienced everything that he listed in this verse (2 Cor. 11:26-27). Even his death by execution did not separate him from Christ’s love. The presence of suffering does not equate the absence of God’s love for you.
   3. Paul quoted Psalm 44:22 to demonstrate that suffering has always been a part of the existence of God’s people on the earth. (v. 36)
   4. The adversities of life do not separate us from Christ’s love. Rather, we are “more than conquerors” in all adversity because of His love. (v. 37)
      1. *More than conquerors* comes from a Greek word that means, “to gain a surpassing victory” (Thayer). The fact that it is present and active means that we “keep on being conquerors to a greater degree” (John Witmer).
      2. He uses the things that oppose us for our good. Instead of working against us, they are working to our advantage!
   5. Paul was completely convinced there is absolutely NOTHING that can separate a believer from Christ’s love. (v. 38-39) The list of possible threats is arranged in pairs. There is nothing about death or life that can separate us from God’s love. No spiritual being is able to separate us from His love. There is no present or future situation that can sever us from His care. There is nothing in the entire universe that can cause God to stop loving you! In case he overlooked something or someone, Paul concluded the list with a reference to “any other creature.” There is no one, including yourself, who can bring an end to God’s love for you.
3. **Central Idea: Paul rejoiced in the security of God’s love because the believer’s future standing before God is settled and there is nothing in the present that can separate them from Christ’s love.**
4. **Application**
   1. When you are troubled by the memory of past sins, remember that no accusation against you will stand since you are in Christ Jesus.
   2. When the weight of life presses down upon you, remember that nothing can separate you from Christ’s love. He cares for you. He is interceding on your behalf. We have victory in Jesus!

**Conclusion**

This is a powerful climax to this section of Romans. It is as though Paul were standing at the mountaintop and admiring the view of God’s amazing grace to sinners. As a believer, you don’t have to fear the final judgment. Neither do you have to wonder about God’s love for you today. You can rejoice in the security of Christ’s love!