

“More Than Conquerors”
Romans 8:31-39
2/26/23
Message 17

Introduction

- Title Of The Message: “More Than Conquerors”

- **Illustration – The Final Test**

- **Steve Winger from Lubbock, Texas, writes about his last college test**

- A final in a logic class - It was known to be the most difficult exam
- To help on our test
 - The professor told us we could bring as much information to the exam as we could fit on a piece of notebook paper.
 - Most students crammed as many facts as possible on their 8-1/2 x 11-inch sheet of paper.
- But one student walked into class
 - Put a piece of notebook paper on the floor, and had an advanced logic student stand on the paper.
 - The advanced logic student told him everything he needed to know
- He was the only student to receive an "A"
- **The ultimate Final Exam is COMING**
 - When we stand before God and he asks!

- He will Ask - Why should I let you in?
- On our own we cannot pass that exam
 - We can NOT do enough good on a Sheet of Paper
- But we have Someone who will stand in for us!
 - His name is Jesus Christ
- The Question is ARE you IN CHRIST?
- **If the answer is YES –**
 - We have in our text an AMAZING Promise!
 - Paul's finishes out Romans 8 asking 5 Questions
 - Questions
 - What Shall We Then Say?
 - Who Shall Oppose Us?
 - Who Shall Accuse Us?
 - Who Shall Condemn Us?
 - Who Shall Separate Us?
 - Purpose - To encourage us in our position In Christ

• **Review**

- **1st Paul Has Been Talking about The Doctrine of Soteriology (Salvation)**
 - **NOTE – Chapter Breaks**
 - No Chapter BREAKS – this has been one continue thought

- Paul is presenting the Gospel

- **Since Romans 1:16-17**

Romans 1:16–17 (NKJV)

16 *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.*

17 *For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “The just shall live by faith.”*

- **2nd Romans 1-3:20 - All Have SINNED (Condemnation)**
- **3rd Romans 3:21-5 – BUT NOW (Our Position In Christ – Justification)**
- **4th Romans 6-8 - Our Position In Christ – Sanctification**

- **Chapter 7 – Thanks Be To God**

- Verse 24 - he vents frustration

Romans 7:24 (NKJV)

24 *O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?*

- Verse 25 - Is the answer, the solution –

Romans 7:25 (NKJV)

25 *I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin.*

- **Chapter 8**

- **It's All about the Holy Spirit**

- The Key Word – Spirit
- The Spirit - Was mentioned only once in chapters 1–7
- Chapter 8 - Used 19 times

- **There Is NO Commendation For The Believer vs. 1-2**
 - NO CONDEMNATION
 - The Amazing Promise to those IN Christ
 - In Christ = Born Again (John 3)
 - Verse 2 – FREE From the LAW
 - Gravity
 - Air plane operating under a new law – Power of the engines
- **The Reason Why There Is No Condemnation vs. 3-4**
 - Jesus Paid it ALL – All To Him we owe
- **The Contrast Between Carnally Minded and Spiritually Minded vs. 5-8**
 - Paul is not describing two kinds of Christians, one carnal and one spiritual.
 - He is contrasting the saved and the unsaved.
 - The Carnally Minded / Unbeliever Life = DEATH
 - The Spiritually Minded / Believer Life = LIFE / Freedom
- **The Condition Of The Believer vs. 9-11**
 - If the Spirit is in you
 - Power to live for Jesus vs. 10-11
 - Power over the Flesh vs. 12-13

- Power to Be His Sons & Daughters v. 14
- Power to Call Him - “Abba, Father.” v. 15
- Power Of The Witness of HS that we His Children v. 16
- Power to be joint heirs with Christ v. 17a
- Power In Sufferings v. 17b
- Last Week - 3 Powerful Truths the Holy Spirit Gives us in Times of Sufferings
 - Creation Groans vs. 17b-22
 - Creation subject to Adam’s Sin
 - Groans for redemption
 - Believers Groan vs. 23-25
 - We have tasted Heaven with the HS living in us
 - We long for Ultimate Redemption
 - The Holy Spirit Groans vs. 26-30
 - The Holy Spirit Helps Us In Prayer vs. 26-27
 - The Holy Spirit Encourages Us With His Plan v. 28
 - The Holy Spirit Secures Us In His Predestination v. 29-30

• **5 POWERFUL TRUTH On Being More Than Conquerors**

- God Is For Us v. 31
- Christ Died For Us v. 32
- God Justified Us v. 33
- Jesus Intercedes For Us v. 34

- Jesus Loves Us vs. 35-39

God Is For Us v. 31

• First: What Then Shall We Say To These things v. 31

- **1st These things v. 1a**

Romans 8:31 (NKJV)

31 What then shall we say to these things? *If God is for us, who can be against us?*

- “These Things”
 - Everything Paul has been Talking about Since (Romans 1:16)
 - What we just reviewed
- BUT - Immediate context - That is – “All Things” of v. 28
 - Knowing that God is...
 - All-Powerful
 - All-Wise
 - All-Loving
 - That Everything is going to work out to make us more like Jesus
- What then shall we say...
 - What should our conclusion be Confidence & Peace
 - We should never be worried again! 😊
- BUT WAIT THERE IS MORE...

- **Second: If God Is For Us v. 31b**

- **1st The Word “IF” = Since**

Romans 8:31 (NKJV)

31 *What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?*

- The Greek construction is better translated “Since” God IS for us.
 - The “if” is ei (εἰ)
 - The conditional particle of a fulfilled condition.
 - The words “be” and “can be” are in italics
 - Which means that they are not in the Greek text
 - But were supplied by the translators in an effort to fill out the thought.
- That thought
 - “IF” Is not in the form of a hypothetical condition
 - As “IF...”
 - BUT “SINCE” God is for us

- **2nd God Is For US v. 31c**

Romans 8:31 (NKJV)

31 *What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?*

- The Father is FOR US
 - Predestined US v. 29

- He Calls Us v. 28-29
- Justifies US v. 29
- He proved it by giving His Son v. 32a
- The Son is FOR US
 - The Redeemer vs. 1-4
 - Indwell US v. 10
 - Made us Joint heirs v. 17
 - First Born Among Many v. 29
 - Savior of our SOULS v. 34
- The Spirit is for US
 - Source of POWER v. 4
 - Source of LIFE & PEACE v. 6
 - Indweller vs. 9, 11
 - He Leads Us v. 14
 - Witness to US v. 16
 - Prayers For US v. 26
- FOR US - Just in Chapter 8
 - No Condemnation v. 1
 - Free From the Law v. 2
 - Under the New Law of The Spirit v. 2

- Jesus Redeemed Us vs. 3-5
- Spirit Gives LIFE & Peace vs. 5-17
- Power to live for Jesus vs. 10-11
- Power over the Flesh vs. 12-13
- Power to Be His Sons & Daughters v. 14
- Power to Call Him - “Abba, Father.” v. 15
- Power Of The Witness of HS that we His Children v. 16
- Power to be joint heirs with Christ v. 17a
- Power In Sufferings v. 17b
- Adopted into God’s family v. 15
- Great glory v. 18
- The Spirit groaning for the change that’s coming to us v. 23
- The Spirit helps us in our inability to pray v. 26
- God causes all things to work out for our good v, 28
- He has a plan that includes molding us into the image of Jesus v. 29
- He has chosen us, justified us, and glorified us v. 30
- How much more “FOR US” can you get?
 - For the Believer – God is NOT angry with US
 - HE is FOR US – Because we are in His SON

- **3rd Who can be against us? v. 31d**

Romans 8:31 (NKJV)

31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, **who can be against us?**

- So SINCE God is FOR US
- Who can be against US
- One person plus God makes an unconquerable majority.

Psalm 27:1 (NKJV)

1 The LORD is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; Of whom shall I be afraid?

Psalm 56:4 (NKJV)

4 In God (I will praise His word), In God I have put my trust; I will not fear. What can flesh do to me?

Christ Died For Us v. 32

- **First: Did Not Spare v. 32a**

Romans 8:32 (NKJV)

32 **He who did not spare His own Son**, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

- **1st Spare His OWN SON**

- Greek: Pheidomai
 - Means: To spare; to abstain
- God Sent His SON –
 - To take our SINS
 - And in exchange gave us His righteousness
 - NOTE separation = Garden – Cross

- NOTE

- This is the same Greek word is used where Abraham was willing to sacrifice Isaac (Gen 22:16-17 NKJV)
- Abraham being willing to sacrifice his only son was a beautiful picture of what God would be doing 2000 years after Abraham.
- It's not a coincidence that Abraham took Isaac to the mountains of "Moriah", the location of the city of Jerusalem.

- **Second: Delivered Him up v. 32b**

Romans 8:32 (NKJV)

32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

- **Delivered Him up**

- Greek: Paradidomi –
 - Means: To give into the hands (of another); to deliver up one to custody, to be judged, condemned, punished, scourged, tormented, put to death
- God also "delivered" Jesus up for death
 - Someone has to Die for our sins
 - Illustration
 - National Treasure

- **Third: Freely Give v. 32c**

Romans 8:32 (NKJV)

32 *He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?*

○ **Freely Give**

- Greek: Charizomai
 - Means: To do something pleasant or agreeable (to one), to show one's self gracious, kind; to grant forgiveness, to pardon; to give graciously, give freely
- This is the verb, the action word for "grace".
 - Paul's point is that grace doesn't stop at the cross.
 - If God didn't withhold Jesus from us
 - How much more will He "grace" us with all things?

• **Fourth: Lesson**

○ **1st God has good things for me**

- Paul is arguing from the lesser to the greater
- God gave us His best – When we were SINNERS
- HOW MUCH MORE now that we have received His GRACE

○ **2nd The cross is God's ultimate love gift.**

- There is no greater demonstration of love.
- When you doubt God's love for you, think again. Think of the cross.

1 John 3:16 (NKJV)

16 *By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.*

Romans 5:8 (NKJV)

8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

God Justified Us v. 33

• First: Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? v. 33a

Romans 8:33 (NKJV)

33 Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.

○ 1st A Charge

- Greek: Egkaleo –
- Means: To come forward as accuser against, bring charge against
 - It's a legal term, describing what a prosecutor does.

○ 2nd Elect

- Greek: Eklektos
- Means: Picked out, chosen; that's us. We are the "elect", those "chosen" by God.

○ 3rd Lesson - Who Accuses Christians?

- We are in a COURT room Setting –
 - We KNOW we are GUILTY
 - We KNOW we have NO POWER to save ourselves
- Our Accusers
 - 1st Satan
 - The accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God, day and night (Rev. 12:10)

- 2nd The World
 - If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. (John 15:18)
- 3rd Sadly We Christians accuse each other

Galatians 5:15 (NKJV)

15 But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!

- 4th We even accuse ourselves
 - Carrying around a sense of guilt & shame.
- But what DOES God SAY
 - He has declared us justified!
 - The judge has spoken! – The gavel has fallen! “Not Guilty!”
 - SO NO ONE CAN BRING A CHARGE AGAINST US

• **Second: It is God who justifies v. 33b**

Romans 8:33 (NKJV)

33 Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.

- **It IS GOD Who Justifies**
 - We have been declared righteous!
 - JUST AS IF I NEVER SINNED
 - That declaration never changes!!!

Jesus Intercedes For Us v. 34

- **First: Who is he who condemns? v. 34a**

Romans 8:34 (NKJV)

34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.

- **1st How do you shut down Condemnations?**
 - 4 ways:
 - 1st Christ died
 - 2nd Christ is risen
 - 3rd Christ has ascended
 - 4th Christ makes intercession.
- **2nd It is Christ that died! – Let not your confidence be in anything else!**
 - I was dedicated as a baby! – NO! - It is Christ that died!
 - I was baptized! – NO! - It is Christ that died!
 - I was confirmed! – NO! - It is Christ that died!
 - I tithe! – NO! - It is Christ that died!
 - I was raised in the church! – NO! - It is Christ that died!
 - I go on missions trips! – NO! - It is Christ that died!
 - I speak in tongues! – NO! - It is Christ that died!
 - I go to CCP (hmmm!) – NO! - It is Christ that died!
 - Whatever your confidence...“Put them all away!
 - Keep to this one declaration! – “It is Christ who died!”
- **3rd Jesus is our High Priest makes intercession for us**

- Satan accuses us, but Jesus is our Lawyer
- He always represents us before the Lord
- It means that Jesus represents us before the throne of God and we don't have to represent ourselves
- We are secure because He is constantly interceding for us

Jesus Loves Us vs. 35-39

• First: Who shall separate us from the love of Christ vs. 35-36

Romans 8:35–36 (NKJV)

35 *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?*

36 *As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter."*

○ 1st God doesn't shelter us from life's difficulties

- Those difficulties are working for us not against us
 - They are for our spiritual growth
- Tribulation
 - Here the word probably refers to the kind of adversity common to all men.
- Distress.
 - This refers to being strictly confined in a narrow, difficult place or being helplessly hemmed in by one's circumstances.
- Persecution – Sword
- Suffering

- Inflicted on us by men because of our relationship with Christ (Matt. 5:10–12)

- **2nd He never deserts us**

- He is closer to us in those tough times

- **Second: God gives us the power to conquer vs. 37-39**

Romans 8:37–39 (NKJV)

37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come,

39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- **1st More than conquerors through Him who loved us:**

- Death Nor Life –
 - Whether we live or die – we can't be separated from HIM
- Nor angels nor principalities
 - Fallen angels or demons (Eph. 6:12; Col. 2:15; Jude 6)
- Powers
 - The plural form of this common word for “power” is used to refer to either miracles or to persons in positions of authority.
- Nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing
 - Common astronomical terms used to refer to the high and low points of a star's path
 - Nothing in life's path, from beginning to end, can separate us from Christ's love.

- Possibly, Paul may intend to describe all of space from top to bottom. nor any other created thing.
- No matter what our circumstances, none of the sufferings of this present time can separate us from the love of God.
- This makes us conquerors and more.
- **3rd How is the Christian more than a conqueror?**
 - He overcomes with a greater power, the power of Jesus.
 - He overcomes with a greater motive, the glory of Jesus.
 - He overcomes with a greater victory, losing nothing even in the battle
 - He overcomes with a greater love, conquering enemies with love and converting persecutors with patience.

Closing

- When Chrysostom was brought before the Roman Emperor
 - The Emperor threatened him with banishment if he remained a Christian.
 - Chrysostom replied,
 - “Thou canst not banish me, for this world is my father’s house.”
 - “But I will slay thee,” said the Emperor.
 - “Nay, thou canst not,” said the noble champion of the faith, “for my life is hid with Christ in God.”
 - “I will take away thy treasures.”

- “Nay, but thou canst not for my treasure is in heaven and my heart is there.”
- “But I will drive thee away from man and thou shalt have no friend left.”
 - “Nay, thou canst not, for I have a friend in heaven from whom thou canst not separate me. I defy thee; for there is nothing that thou canst do to hurt me.”
- NOTHING CAN SEPARATE YOU FROM HIS LOVE, NOTHING!!!