

REDEMPTION CHURCH

Romans 8 | Week 9: Say What?

ROMANS 8:31

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

1 TIMOTHY 1:12-17

"I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, ¹³though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, ¹⁴and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. ¹⁷To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

This week we returned to our Romans 8 series in verse 31 where Paul is beginning to build a framework for how the Christian is to respond to the great news of Romans 8.

Here Paul emotively begins a string of seven questions that conclude with a few verses used throughout the years as confidence builders for the believer. We should answer these rhetorical questions, as the answers show us some beautiful proofs of the Gospel. Today we begin with the first two.

What must we see in this passage?

Question 1: What then shall we say to these things?

We must recall what *things* we are responding to:

- We, who are in Christ Jesus, are no longer condemned!
- We have a hope that cannot be shaken!
- The Holy Spirit helps us pray when we don't know what to say!
- God is working out ALL THINGS together for our good!
- God exists outside our timeline and knows exactly what He's doing -from our birth to our glorification!

So, what shall you say to these things?

Response #1: "Thank You!" (Gratitude); 1 Timothy 1:12-17

Response #2: "Wow!" (Humbled and amazed);

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, ²¹to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen. Ephesians 3:20-21

Response #3: "Change me, use me!" (Godliness and good works);

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹²training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works. Titus 2:11-14

- Crucify the flesh
- Sometimes proper training can hurt a little

REMEMBER

We must intentionally counter-act the enemy's attacks and remember:

- "...greater is He that is in us than he that is in the world..." 1 John 4:4
- "...I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me..." Philippians 4:13
- "...but take heart for I have overcome the world..." John 16:33

DISCUSS

1. From "therefore now no condemnation..." to "who can be against us..." we can see and know that NO charge or accusation made against us can stand. Because God is "for us," He has provided for our justification and Christ is interceding for us.

What accusation or charge has the enemy tried to imprison you with? How can a right response bring freedom?

2. Which of the enemy's 3 tactics do you tend to struggle against the most (lies/deception, isolation/despair, or sin/darkness)?

What are few immediate and actionable steps you can take now to begin to counter them?

Question 2: If God is for us, who can be against us?

- This verse isn't saying that we won't have enemies, but that they pale compared to our God.
- No enemy can turn God against us.

*Paul's defense is ironclad and revealed in the following verses.

Without spiritual eyes, we will not understand what "God is for us" means.

- If God is for me, who can be against me, **His beloved**?
- If God is for us, who can be against us, **His church**?

The enemy of our soul is against us and he aims to destroy us. He has three primary tactics:

- 1: Lies and deception (countered by Truth).
- 2: Isolation and despair (countered by community & hope).
 - prophet Elijah ([1 Kings 19:1-18](#))
 - A fool isolates himself ([Proverbs 18:1](#))
- 3: Sin and darkness (countered by no condemnation and sanctification).

Who will be against the Church?

1. The powers of darkness.
2. The gates of hell.

What do we say to such things?

1. We pray.
2. We worship.
3. We unite.
4. We operate in faith.

Only do not rebel against the Lord. And do not fear the people of the land, for they are bread for us. Their protection is removed from them, and the Lord is with us; do not fear them."

Numbers 14:9

God was with them, do not be afraid.

He is with us, so be strong and courageous!

We too can "eat giants for breakfast"!

The Lord is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?

⁷The Lord is on my side as my helper; I shall look in triumph on those who hate me.

Psalms 118:6-7

The LORD is on our side!