

3. A Summary of the Jesus Story

In these few verses Paul presents a summary of Jesus' story.
In which verses do we find that-

Jesus is the Son of God
Jesus was crucified in our place
Our sin was exchanged for Christ's righteousness
Jesus conquered death
Jesus ascended to heaven
Jesus is interceding before God for us.

WRAP-UP

In reflecting on the chapter, it's clear that God is unequivocally "for us,". Paul contrasts God's unwavering support with potential opposition, emphasizing an eternal perspective despite temporary troubles. He invites us to consider the immense sacrifice God has made, demonstrated by Jesus' crucifixion, as a testament to His love and assurance of future provisions. Jesus' sacrifice underscores God's deep commitment to setting things right and His ongoing role in interceding for us. This assurance should bolster our confidence in our standing with God, helping us face any opposition or condemnation with a sense of security and gratitude.

MEMORY VERSE

What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us?
- Romans 8:31 NLT

Challenge- Be aware this week of the opposition you sense around you. Don't be drawn into conflict, but instead recall this passage and the assurance of God's love for you.

God is For You Romans 8 - Week 8

INTRODUCTION

Certainly, the Christians in Rome to whom Paul wrote, faced great opposition. And so, as Paul summarizes his thoughts from the previous passages, he addresses the dire circumstances they faced. He helps give them hope by contrasting the love of the Almighty God, who is for them with whoever, or whatever, opposed them. It is a truth and a hope that we share as Christ followers.

Ice Breaker

Do you recall a teacher, a coach, or a family member who was your defender and advocate when you faced challenges growing up?

Key Passage

31 What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us? 32 Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else? 33 Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? No one--for God himself has given us right standing with himself. 34 Who then will condemn us? No one--for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God's right hand, pleading for us. - Romans 8:31-34 NLT

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Rhetorical Questions

Depending on the Bible translation you are using, our key passage contains 4 or 5 rhetorical questions. In its original language, which is Greek, there was no punctuation, and so we infer where to place each question mark. But there is no doubt that Paul has proposed several questions to his readers, not because he is seeking a definitive answer,

but to get them to think, and to reflect on these points. And so, let's also take a moment to reflect as well.

- *Paul's first question is "how we respond to", or "what do we conclude from" his line of thought in verses 1 – 30, which we have studied this summer? Do a quick review of those verses and share what you've discovered about God, and his character and His relationship to you.*

22 But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. 23 For if you listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. - James 1:22-23 NLT

As James points out, God's word is not something to glance at and forget. It is intended to shape us into the image of Christ. Let the truths that you find in this chapter of Romans make a difference in the way you live.

2. God is for us

31a ...If God is for us, who can ever be against us? - Romans 8:31a NLT

17 For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! 18 So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever. - 2 Corinthians 4:17-18 NLT

Hopefully in your reflection on what we have learned in this chapter thus far, you have concluded that God is indeed for us. But again, we must clarify our understanding of the word "if". This isn't meant to bring into question whether God is or isn't for us, but it means "forasmuch as". God is definitely for us. Paul is beginning a series of contrasting images. Here he asks us to consider our God, who is for us, compared that to who or what might oppose us. In 2 Corinthians Paul refers to our present trouble as small and temporary. While we should not minimize people's suffering, we do want to maintain an eternal perspective.

What has been the most daunting opposition you have had to face in your life? Were you able to draw from this truth during that time of conflict?

Next Paul expands upon this image by asking us to consider what God has sacrificed for us already and how that should give us confidence in His future provision for our needs.

16 "For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. - John 3:16 NLT

8 But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. - Romans 5:8 NLT

32 Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else? - Romans 8:32 NLT

In John 3:16 we find another demonstration of how God is "for us". Jesus was crucified "for us." In this case, He was the substitute for us, our only hope of salvation. There can be no greater act of love than this. How have you seen God come through for you personally in the past? What do you need to trust God with now?

Jesus' sacrificial death in our place is a sobering reminder of the depth of God's love for us. He was not compelled to send Jesus to the cross because we were entitled to it, but because He could not bear to see His image-bearers ruining their lives and His creation in disarray. God longs to set all things right again, and to do that He had to personally intervene.

33 Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? No one--for God himself has given us right standing with himself. 34 Who then will condemn us? No one--for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God's right hand, pleading for us. - Romans 8:33-34 NLT

In verse 34 we find another way that Christ is "for us" in addition to his substitutionary death- He is raised to life "for us" and intercedes "for us" before God the Father.

Paul goes on to have us compare those who accuse or condemn us with the God who has justified us and freed us from condemnation. How does our confidence in our right standing with God prepare us to handle opposition from anyone else?