

“The Sovereignty and Security of Salvation”

Romans 8:31-39

October 9, 2011

I. Introduction: “What then shall we say to these things...” (v.31a)

- a. “***What then shall we say to these things...***” = He is asking rhetorically whether or not you’re really getting all this...
- b. “these things” =
 - b.i. Romans... G.O.S.P.E.L.!
 - b.ii. Romans 8
 - b.iii. Romans 8:28-30 = Certain Security in Sovereign Salvation!

II. Romans (G.O.S.P.E.L.!)

Romans 1:1 & 1:16-18 = G. & O (Greeting & Offense/Sin).

1 Paul, a bond-servant of Christ Jesus, called as an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, 16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “BUT THE RIGHTEOUS man SHALL LIVE BY FAITH.” 18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness...

Romans 3:21-25 = “S” (salvation/justification)

21 But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. 22 This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. 25 God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood.

Romans 6:1 & 15-18 = P (Purify/Sanctification)

1 What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? 2 15 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! 16 Don’t you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? 17 But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted. 18 You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.

III. **Romans 8** (“SPIRIT” = 21X most in any N.T. chapter)

a. **Vv.1-13 = “Victory through the Spirit”**

a.i. *Vv.1-8 = Victory over Sin*

a.ii. *Vv.9-13 = Victory over death*

1 Therefore there is now no (A)condemnation for those who are (B)in (C)Christ Jesus. 2 For (D)the law of the Spirit of life [a]in (E)Christ Jesus (F)has set you free from the law of sin and of death. 3 For (G)what the Law could not do, [b](H)weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in (I)the likeness of [c]sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, 4 so that the (J)requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who (K)do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. 5 For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on (L)the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, (M)the things of the Spirit. 6 (N)For the mind set on the flesh is (O)death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, 7 because the mind set on the flesh is (P)hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so, 8 and those who are (Q)in the flesh cannot please God.

9 However, you are not (R)in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God (S)dwells in you. But (T)if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him. 10 (U)If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is [d]alive because of righteousness. 11 But if the Spirit of Him who (V)raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, (W)He who raised (X)Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies [e]through His Spirit who dwells in you.

12 So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— 13 for (Y)if you are living according to the flesh, you [f]must die; but if by the Spirit you are (Z)putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

b. **vv.14-17a = Adoption through the Spirit**

b.i. *vv.14-16 = Assurance of Adoption*

b.ii. *v.17a = Heirship of Adoption*

14 For all who are (AA)being led by the Spirit of God, these are (AB)sons of God. 15 For you (AC)have not received a spirit of slavery [g]leading to fear again, but you (AD)have received [h]a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, “(AE)Abba! Father!” 16 The Spirit Himself (AF)testifies with our spirit that we are (AG)children of God, 17 and if children, (AH)heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ,

c. **vv.17b-30= Living Hope through the Spirit**

- c.i. *Suffering is to be expected... the path to heaven/cross carrying*
- c.ii. *Suffering here not worthy of compare to glory coming*
- c.iii. *Saved "in hope"*
- c.iv. *God has a plan... v.28*
- c.v. *God's plan if foolproof... vv.29-30*
 - c.v.1. *For-knew*
 - c.v.2. *Predestined*
 - c.v.3. *Called*
 - c.v.4. *Justified*
 - c.v.5. *Glorified*

(AI)*if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him. 18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time (AJ)are not worthy to be compared with the (AK)glory that is to be revealed to us. 19 For the (AL)anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for (AM)the revealing of the (AN)sons of God. 20 For the creation (AO)was subjected to (AP)futility, not willingly, but (AQ)because of Him who subjected it, [i]in hope 21 that (AR)the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation (AS)groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. 23 (AT)And not only this, but also we ourselves, having (AU)the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves (AV)groan within ourselves, (AW)waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, (AX)the redemption of our body. 24 For (AY)in hope we have been saved, but (AZ)hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he already sees? 25 But (BA)if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it.26 In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for (BB)we do not know how to pray as we should, but (BC)the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; 27 and (BD)He who searches the hearts knows what (BE)the mind of the Spirit is, because He (BF)intercedes for the [j]saints according to the will of God. 28 And we know that [k]God causes (BG)all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are (BH)called*

according to His purpose. 29 For those whom He (BI)foreknew, He also (BJ)predestined to become (BK)conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the (BL)firstborn among many brethren; 30 and these whom He (BM)predestined, He also (BN)called; and these whom He called, He also (BO)justified; and these whom He justified, He also (BP)glorified.

I. Human Threats/Concerns Regarding Sovereign Security in Salvation (vv.31b-34)

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? 32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? 33 Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies; 34 who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.

- a. "If" God is for us, who can be against us...
 - a.i. "If" is better read: "because" (Greek grammar/context)
 - a.ii. "Because God is for us..." = we only need fear those bigger than God....
 - a.ii.1. Psalm 27:1... Psalm 46:1-3, 11... Isaiah 40:22, 26, 28
- b. "He who did not spare His own Son..."
 - b.i. This shows how ludicrous the thought of "insecurity" is...
 - b.i.1. Losing one's blood-bought salvation makes the cross superfluous
 - b.i.2. Losing one's salvation makes the cross a failure
 - b.i.3. ...makes Jesus a liar...
 - b.i.4. ...turns God into god...
 - b.ii. Read 2 Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 1:4; John 14:2-3; Ephesians 1:3
- c. "freely give" = undeserved mercy and grace (1 John 1:9)

II. Circumstantial Concerns Regarding Sovereign Security in Salvation (vv.35-37)

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 Just as it is written, "FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG; WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED." 37 But in all these things we overwhelmingly (CI)conquer through (CJ)Him who loved us.

- a. TRIBULATION/trouble = severe adversity
- b. DISTRESS/hardship = helplessly hemmed in... inescapable trials/temptations
- c. PERSECUTION = suffering for the sake of Christ (beatitudes promise double blessing)
- d. FAMINE = literally starving to death as an aspect/consequence of persecution...
- e. NAKEDNESS = destitute, vulnerable, and unprotected
- f. PERIL/danger = exposed to real danger
- g. SWORD = an assassin's dagger vs. long militant sword
- h. "in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us"
 - h.i. "in all these things" = whatever the world throws at you...
 - h.ii. "we overwhelmingly conquer"
 - h.ii.1. Greek context = compound word meaning: hyper-conquer
 - h.ii.1.a. To conquer with success to spare... to "over conquer"

- h.ii.1.b. In today's vernacular: "Not even close... we CRUSHED 'em"
- h.ii.1.c. Christ both saves & keeps us! Thus we thrive vs merely survive!
- h.ii.2. "Those whom the world looks upon as the overwhelmed and conquered are in reality overwhelming conquerors." – John MacArthur
- h.ii.3. "In God's scheme of things, the victors are the vanquished and the vanquished are the victors." – John MacArthur

III. Conclusion (v38-39)

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- a. "For I am convinced"
 - a.i. Read 2 Timothy 1:12
 - a.ii. Paul is speaking authoritatively as a "sent one" who experienced the truth
- b. "neither..." - Paul uses the various extremes to rule out everything in between...
 - b.i. "DEATH nor LIFE"
 - b.i.1. Death:
 - b.i.1.a. Death has no sting for true Christians! No sting = no influence.
 - b.i.1.b. Read 2 Corinthians 5:8; Psalm 116:15; Psalm 23....
 - b.i.2. Life:
 - b.i.2.a. Eternal life strips this life of its influence...
 - b.i.2.b. This "life" is not our home...
 - b.ii. "nor ANGELS nor PRINCIPALITIES"
 - b.ii.1. Angels = hypothetical hyperbole... read Galatians 1:8
 - b.ii.2. Principalities = Satan & his minions/demons... = spiritual warfare!
 - b.iii. "nor THINGS PRESENT, nor THINGS to COME" = any/all reality based timelines!
 - b.iv. "nor POWERS" = Gk. Dunamis... spiritual power of any kind...
 - b.v. "nor HEIGHTS, nor DEPTHS" = focus is on the vastness of space & the stars...
 - b.vi. "NOR ANY OTHER CREATED THINGS"
 - b.vi.1. Removes ALL doubts
 - b.vi.2. Adds into the discussion/argument... ANY other thing you can think of!
- c. "shall be able to separate us" - Read Romans 3:10-12
- d. "from the love of God" = focus of vv.31-34
- e. "which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." = focus of vv.35-39