

“The Security of the Believer”

Romans 8:31~39, part 2

In this section of scripture, Paul is speaking to “*The Security of the Believer*.” The teaching that those who come to faith in Christ Jesus, are *eternally saved*. It is the doctrine of “*Eternal Security*,” or what many refer to as “*Once Saved, Always Saved*...”

A subject that has sparked great controversy among evangelical Christians... As a matter of fact, it may well be one of the main reasons why there are so many different denominations. As a given, I don't think you'll find in any of the various denominations, in disagreement that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, that He is the Messiah. They all agree on that, but when it comes to the matter of “*Eternal Security*,” there is a *great division*. There are those who argue against it, saying you can be lost again. A debate that has been going on *for centuries*.

But I want to suggest to you, that the CLEAR and UNMISTAKEABLE TEACHING of scripture...is that of the “*Eternal Security of the Believer!*”

Every question he ask, every statement he makes here, all point to his climatic declaration he makes in verse 38~39...listen again...

³⁸For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, ³⁹Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature...

^{39 b} **Nothing**...shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

T: It's important to notice what we cannot be separated from...the “*Love of God*...” Beloved, we who are “*In Christ*,” are no longer the objects of His wrath, but now we are the objects of His love, His affection.

We are in the “*Grip of God's Grace, God's Love*”...

(John 10) Jesus said the same thing...²⁷My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:
²⁸And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. ²⁹My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.

God has extended “*His Hand of Mercy*” to us, and has rescued us from the pit of sin, and there is NOTHING or NO ONE who can remove us for His grasp!

(John 17) ¹¹And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.
¹²While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gave me I have kept, **and none of them is lost**...but the **son of perdition**; that the scripture might be fulfilled.

Once again the clear teaching of scripture, is that all to whom the Father brings to Christ, NONE are lost! EXCEPT the “*son of perdition*”...which is a reference to “*Judas Iscariot*.” Son of perdition refers to a *child of destruction*...*child of damnation*... Judas was not a “*Born again follower of Jesus*” who went bad...but rather a child of the devil, who Jesus allowed to be numbered among them to “*fulfill*” the prophecies of the O.T prophets. ***Jesus chose Judas***...knowing full well what he would end up doing...

Beloved...we are “*Safe & Secure*” in Christ Jesus our Lord...

That's what Paul has been speaking too here in Romans... In verse 24, Paul says “*we are saved by Hope*...” I am trusting that Jesus Christ is God's promised Messiah, and I am trusting that HE will KEEP me in the “*Grip of His Grace!*” I'm convinced, that nothing or no one will separate me from His Love!

(2Timothy 1:12) ¹²For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

Beloved...we are “*Safe & Secure*” in Christ Jesus our Lord...

In introducing this section on the “*Security of the believer*”, Paul says...³¹What shall we then say to **these things?**

What things? The truths that Paul has been declaring... Truths, which he “*sums up*” in verse 30! Listen very closely...The truth that Paul declares in verse 30, serves as the “*Foundation*” for what he is about to declare concerning the “*Eternal Security*” of the believer!

³⁰Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

The reason Paul can so boldly proclaim the “*Security of the believer*” is due the fact, that God is the source of every aspect of man’s salvation!

If God performs “*every aspect*” of our salvation...and God is ETERNAL...then we can be rest assured, that HE will see it through to the end! That He will finish what HE started!

(Philippians 1) ⁹Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

I’ll say again... Paul’ claim to the “*Eternal Security of the believer*” **is based** on the fact, that God is the source of every aspect of man’s salvation! And since God is ETERNAL...we are eternally secure!

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

If God *be* for us, who *can be* against us?

What’s the OBVIOUS answer to that Question? **No One!**

Paul says, **think about it**... Consider what He did...³²He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

Again, What’s the OBVIOUS answer to that Question?

If God was willing to go as far as to “*Give up*” His own Son...**FOR US**...don’t you realize that means there’s NOTHING He wouldn’t do for us?

Beloved, because of what we see in the cross, we are “ASSURED” that His Love knows NO LIMITS...NO BOUNDARIES, there’s NO STOPPING POINT...

As “*followers of Christ*”, we enjoy the “*Limitless Love*” of God!

We are “*Safe & Secure*” in Christ Jesus our Lord...

If your still not convinced...Paul says, CONSIDER this...

(Vs 33~34) ³³Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God’s elect? *It is* God that justifies. ³⁴Who *is* he that condemns? *It is* Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.

The first two questions dealt with God's power and God's love... **But these two speak to man's guilt!**
Paul is hitting at the main source of our doubting the security of our salvation... our SHORTCOMINGS!

Q: Doesn't our SHORTCOMINGS...our FAILURES separate us from God?

I'll be the first to admit...I fall way short... It wouldn't take you long, if you spent a little time with me, to find fault in me. As much as that breaks my heart, its true. For I long to be all I can be for God, problem is, I fall short a lot. And I'll say it again, it wouldn't take long for you to see SHORTCOMINGS, and FAILURES in my life...

T: But the "*BLESSED ASSURANCE*" that I have IN CHRIST is...even so, they do not separate me from the LOVE of God in Christ Jesus my Lord!

In saying, **33**Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? Paul is not suggesting that men won't find anything wrong in our lives...for they will!

What Paul is declaring, is that GOD is the JUDGE...and **not Men!** *It is God that justifies!*

To the ONE to whom we have to do, the one to whom we are ACCOUNTABLE to... **HE** has declared us INNOCENT in Christ Jesus!

I have been declared INNOCENT by Christ taking on my "*Guilt*"... If God has declared me Innocent...nothing else matters! He's the Judge...it doesn't matter what other men may say or think!

This is a real problem area for believers...we all feel unworthy! And I believe Satan loves that. He is often called the "**DEVIL**", which means, the "*accuser*." But listen to me, when the "*Accuser*" comes and begins to accuse your shortcomings...begins to point out your inadequacies...don't let that discourage you. What that really does is result in a greater praise to God's Grace and Mercy!

By "*Putting us down*" he's "*Building Christ up!*"

Because I don't claim to be nothing... My only Hope is in the Grace and Mercy of God! So let the accusers accuse! I know, that I am JUST before God, solely on the BASIS of HIS GOODNESS...not mine! I certainly don't deserve any praise...all the praise goes to Him!

(Vs 33~34) **33**Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? *It is God that justifies.*

God is the JUDGE... And if God is the Judge, then HE is the one who renders JUDGMENT!

34*Who is he that condemns?* It's certainly not man, nor is it the accuser himself, the devil!
It is God that renders judgment, it is God that gives the sentence, it is God that carries out the punishment!

Paul says... It is Christ that died... Christ DIED for us! We are innocent only because he was punished for our transgressions! Christ was punished for our sins! The condemnation of our sin was upon Jesus on that tree!

Paul ask... Who's the one who condemns men for their transgressions?
Who is it that renders justice? Who is it that carries out the punishment?

It's God the Father...The Father of our Lord...Jesus Christ! The one whom he offered up for our sins.
The one who condemned sin in the flesh on that tree!

Paul says... **Far from "Punishing" us...we have His Son "Pleading" for us...**

It is Christ that died yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.

As followers of Jesus Christ, we walk in the “*Goodness & Grace of God...*” Because of the “*Love of God*” manifested on the cross, we will be free from the condemnation of God! Our shortcomings and failures will never separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord!

We are “*Safe & Secure*” in Christ Jesus our Lord...