



# “Open Church – Open Bible”

Min. Marossa Davis



# Sunday Church School

MAY 2, 2021

“ More than Conquerors ”  
Romans 8: 28-39

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## “Open Church – Open Bible”

“More than Conquerors”  
Romans 8: 28 -39

- v. 28 “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.
- v. 29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.
- v. 30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.”
- v. 31 “What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?”

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Romans 8: 28 -39

- v. 32 “He 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?”
- v. 33 Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.
- v. 34 Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.”
- v. 35 “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?”

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Romans 8: 28 -39

v. 36 “As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

v. 37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

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

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

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Among the most beloved sections of Scripture, the latter part of Romans 8 has been a comfort and a help to many. The grieving have found solace, the doubtful have been strengthened in their faith, and the depressed have been assured of God’s love in spite of difficult circumstances.

Believers today may not face all the issues the early saints did, but many things remain unchanged. Knowing that God is for us will enable us to be “ more than conquerors” ( v. 38 ).

In last week’s lesson, Paul discussed suffering as a Christian. He mentioned that we ‘ groan in expectation for the future redemption of our bodies. We learned that while we wait, we have comfort from the Holy Spirit.

Now Paul seeks to encourage believers about their victory and security in Christ. Christians are empowered to become like Christ. In Him, we are guaranteed an overwhelming victory.

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TODAY’S AIM

**FACTS:** to study Paul’s description of Christian security in Christ.

**PRINCIPLE:** to understand that God has predetermined our victory in Christ.

**APPLICATION:** to live in the hope of our guaranteed victory through Christ and bear witness of it in confidence.

### LESSON OUTLINE

- |                      |                 |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| I. GOD’S PURPOSE     | Romans 6: 28    |
| II. GOD’S PLAN       | Romans 6: 29-30 |
| III. GOD’S PROVISION | Romans 6: 31-36 |
| IV. GOD’S POWER      | Romans 8: 37-39 |

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I. GOD’S PURPOSE ROMANS 8:28

Last week, We were reminded that even though we don’t always know what to pray for, God’s Spirit intercedes for us. This He does “ according to the will of God” ( v. 28 ), which is a great comfort.

Because of this, “ all things work together for good to them that love God ” ( v. 28 ). Note that this promise is not to all people regardless of their relationship with the Lord; rather, it is a promise made only to God’s born again children. Although some of the unsaved might expect the Lord to grant their request just because they ask, this is not a promise made to those who have habitually rejected God ( I Peter 3:12 ) which reads “ For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, And his ears are open unto their prayers: But the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.”

Among believers, when things are going well, we may find it easy to

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say that God is good. But when illness or tragedy strikes, we may be quick to conclude that the Lord has abandoned us, which, of course, is not true ( Heb. 13:5 ). While we may not want to accept it, the “ **all things**” of Romans 8:28 includes both the good and the bad. We should not conclude, however, that God is the author of evil, but He does permit bad things to happen and sovereignly uses them to accomplish His purposes.

**Romans 8:28 could be more precisely rendered**, “ God causes all things to work together for the good of those who love Him” . God is active, not passive, in how His plan is worked out for the good of those who love Him. Since Paul writes “ **we know**” he was assuming that these Christians like him knew this from personal experience. Paul knew that the Lord was continually at work even in situations that were not very pleasant for him.

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Sometimes the hand of God is more clearly seen in hindsight that when we are going through a painful situation.

**As we think about things working together** for our good, we may be prone to focus on our own good. But **good** also has to do with the good of all believers and God’s eternal purposes. We should not think that either the world or God’s plan revolves around us exclusively. After all, we are those “ who are the called according to [ God’s ] purpose,” not our own.

#### II. GOD’S PLAN

#### ROMANS 8:29-30

**Because of the difficulties in the** concepts of both foreknowledge and predestination, many simply avoid dealing with these verses. While some see foreknowledge and predestination as essentially the same, others make a clear distinction between the two. They see foreknowledge as **knowing** something in advance whereas predestination is **planning** something

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in advance. But perhaps the best way to understand Paul’s intent is to grasp that “ foreknowledge “ has more in mind than mere factual knowledge but includes the scriptural conception that “knowledge “ entails a determined love.

**Paul emphasizes that the purpose** of God’s plan is so that we might be “ conformed to the image of his Son ( v.29 ). God’s ultimate purpose is to make us like Christ. If we are God’s children, it is because “ he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world “ ( Eph 1:4 ). Since we have been chosen by God, He has called us to Himself through the preaching of the Gospel ( c.f. Acts 16:14; II Thess. 2: 13-14 ) responding in faith to that call ( Rom. 5:1; 10:17 ), we were justified, that is, declared not guilty in God’s sight and forgiven our sins. Ultimately, we will be glorified in heaven. Paul speaks of this as an accomplished fact, for in the mind of God it has already happened,

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and nothing can prevent the final outcome.

#### III. GOD’S PROVISION

#### ROMANS 8: 31-36

**Indeed, we stand in awe of God’s plan and provision.** Phil. 2:13 informs us “ for it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure. Hence, “ if God be for us, who can be against us” ( v. 31 ) The song “ A Mighty Fortress is Our God” states “ Though this world with devils filled, should threaten to undo us , We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us”

**To prove the above to be true**, Paul reminds the saints that God “ spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all” (v. 32 ). Since that is true, He can also freely give us all things.” However, we should not conclude that He will answer every prayer as we want it answered, nor is He obliged to provide the kinds of material blessings that we desire. This simply means that

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we are God’s heirs, along with Christ, to all things. He will supply all our needs.

**Since we are “God’s elect”**, who would dare bring an accusation against us? It would not stand because though we are sinners ( saved by grace) , God has declared us justified in His sight. This is not because we are righteous, but **because Christ is righteous** and bore our sins ( 1 Pet. 2:21-25;3:18 ).

**Since we have been justified** in God’s sight, who can condemn us? Certainly the Lord Jesus will not, since He “was delivered for our offenses and was raised for our justification” ( Rom. 8:1 cf. John 10: 27-28 ).

**Besides what Christ has already done** to provide redemption through His death and resurrection, His ongoing work in heaven is that of interceding on our behalf. This echoes what is found in the famous messianic prophecy of Isaiah 53, where the Savior is not only “ numbered with the transgressors “ but

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is also the one who “made intercession for the transgressors” (v.12 ).

**Verses 35-36 discusses the impossibility** of our being separated from Christ . Since there is **no condemnation** in Christ, we now learn that there can be **no separation** from Him either. The kinds of things mentioned here by Paul were the very things he had already experienced while serving God ( II Cor. 11:24-28 ). No doubt some of his readers could identify with many of these things.

**When we suffer in various ways**, it is easy to become discouraged and wrongly conclude that such things indicate God’s displeasure with us, or that He has abandoned us. To be sure, some of our suffering may even be the result of demonic forces, human doings or even unwise personal choices. But, our suffering should not lead us to despair that God is somehow against us.

**The kinds of things that were happening** to believers in the early Church were similar to what happened to Israel. In the Church’s case, they

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were suffering persecutions because they were being faithful in preaching the Gospel. The various ways in which God deals with those He loves is a mystery, but we can be assured that the Lord has not abandoned us.

#### IV. GOD’S POWER ROMANS 8: 37-39

**When referring to Christ’s victory** in v. 37, “ All things” refers to what Paul had already mentioned- namely, tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, peril, and sword ( v. 35 ). Instead of being defeated by these things, we are actually “ more than conquerors ” through Christ ( v.37 ). The Greek word for “ more than conquerors ” is *hupernikomen* and literally means “ **super conquerors.** ” This is the only place this word appears in the New Testament.

**It is important to remember** that any spiritual victory we enjoy is not achieved by our own power, strength, or ingenuity. It is “ through him that loved us.” As Paul says in Philippians 4:13, “ I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me.” Hence, we should not boast in our wisdom, strength, or wealth,

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but only in the Lord ( Jer. 9:23-24 ).

**Because we belong to the Lord**, nothing that comes upon us in life, even death itself, can separate us from Him. Clearly, there are many things in the world that might lead us to conclude that God has abandoned us, but Paul declares them to be powerless in this regard.

**Angels are God’s messengers** and would do nothing to separate us from God . But even if they wanted to, they could not because Christ’s power is greater. “**Principalities**” and “**powers**” are likely references to supernatural demonic forces that occupy an unseen realm around us. While they might seek to destroy our faith or otherwise hinder our spiritual progress, they are powerless to alienate us from God’s love.

**Whatever we face in the present** or whatever we might face in the future cannot deprive us of Christ’s love for us. Neither fears nor foes, currently faced or imminently anticipated, can separate us from God’s grace in Christ. We cannot rise so high or stoop so low that we are beyond the reach of God.

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“ **Nor other creature**” in v. 39 might be better translated “ nothing in all creation.” Anything not already mentioned by Paul as a possible threat to our spiritual security is covered by this final statement. Indeed the love of God is stronger than any worldly or otherworldly force that might impugn our present or future relationship with Jesus Christ

**In conclusion**, when Paul states that “all things work together for good...” he does not mean that everything that happens to Christians will be good. The idea is that God uses both good and evil events to produce an ultimately good outcome on our behalf. That outcome is **our** perfect reflection of Christ’s holy character in preparation for **our hope** beyond this world. All who answer the call to salvation will become conformed to the image of Christ in holiness. As Christians we are to be imitators of Christ ( I John 2:5-8 ). Paul explains that God determined to accomplish this in advance. We were redeemed to become like His Son.

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**Since we are made righteous by God**, Christians don’t have to worry about being condemned by God in judgment. Past sins have been washed away. If we sin after salvation, God has provided forgiveness and restoration ( I John 1:9 ). Most importantly, we have Christ as a heavenly mediator and intercessor on our behalf ( cf. Heb. 4:14-16; I John 2:1 ). God’s love for believers is unconditional. Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ. The trouble and persecution we experience on earth does not change God’s love for us. Trials are never an indication that God has abandoned us.

**God also predetermined that we should be victorious** in Christ. Victory means we overcome all obstacles that are against us. We overcome temptations to sin and the evil devices of Satan intended to make us stumble. Victory also means we are successful in accomplishing God’s will and advancing His kingdom. We are equipped and ready to do the good work God preplanned for us to do ( Eph. 2: 8-10; 6: 10-18 ).

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**Our Golden Text this week was verse 31** “ What shall we then say to these things, If God be for us, who can be against us?” Paul reminds us that we have access to **courage** as believers. We are all warriors in a very real spiritual battle. Everyday we are fighting for ourselves, but also, to help others see how they can be freed from the burden of sin. It is easy to feel defeated in this world. We look around us at what is happening and see so much evil that we can quickly become downcast and balk at moving forward with God’s purpose for our lives. We need courage to face each new day. The key to having the **courage and confidence** we need to overcome the challenges we face is described in our Golden Text.

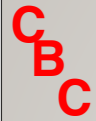
**When Paul asks the rhetorical question** “ Who can be against us? ” Certainly he knows that there are people and forces that are against us. Satan and his followers oppose us as does the world and the flesh. What Paul means, though, is that nothing can *effectively* stand against us because God is with us.

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He is on our side. This is evident from the fact that He “ spared not His own Son, but delivered him up for us all” (v. 32). If He did this for us, surely He will “ give us all things,” including that we will prevail against all opponents. We are on the winning side. When Jesus overcame death, He gained the victory for us ( I Cor. 15:57; I John 5:4 ). Because Jesus has already won, we can move forward from a position of triumph.

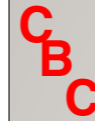
**Our lesson today poses the question** “Are you hiding in a corner, letting your fears keep you from your calling? Are you in the midst of the battle, weary, and in need of refreshment?” Remember, you can walk courageously, confident that nothing can stand against you because **God stands with you.**



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### Practical Points

1. God controls everything. We can trust Him to work things out for our good and His glory. ( Romans 8:28 ).
2. God is all knowing, and He intimately knows every person He saves ( vs. 29-30 ).
3. Through God’s power, we cannot be defeated ( v. 31 ).
4. We cannot be condemned for our sins, because Jesus intercedes for us ( vs. 32-34 ).
5. We can triumph over any circumstance through Christ ( vs. 35-37 ).
6. The Lord will sustain us through every obstacle and trial ( vs. 38-39 ).



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### For Further Discussion

1. List some of the benefits of enjoying victory in Jesus.
2. Discuss strategies to maintain a gracious and hopeful attitude, even in the face of persecution.
3. Discuss personal experiences of deliverance through God’s love. Discuss one of Paul’s experiences of deliverances.
4. As the world grows increasingly evil, what can we do to remain faithful witnesses for Christ?

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