

Romans 8:31-39
In Need of a Hero

1. The Context 31-34

A. What was Just Mentioned

“And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.”

Romans 8:28 ESV

“We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.” -Romans 6:4 ESV

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.” -2 Corinthians 5:17 ESV

B. How Is God FOR Us? 31b-32

C. All Things

“The context makes clear that Paul is not talking about material wealth and the like. He means all that is necessary for salvation, all that is necessary to protect believers from spiritual danger in all sorts of difficult and dangerous circumstances. Again, this is not a promise of continual good health or that believers will never suffer or die, but rather that no third party or power or force or circumstance or lesser supernatural being will be able to separate the believer from the love of God in Christ.”

Ben Witherington, *Paul's Letter to the Romans*

D. God's Elect

“I will bring forth offspring from Jacob, and from Judah possessors of my mountains; my **chosen** shall possess it, and my servants shall dwell there. Sharon shall become a pasture for flocks, and the Valley of Achor a place for herds to lie down, for my people who have sought me. But you who forsake the Lord, who forget my holy mountain, who set a table for Fortune and fill cups of mixed wine for Destiny, I will destine you to the sword, and all of you shall bow down to the slaughter, because, when I called, you did not answer; when I spoke, you did not listen, but you did what was evil in my eyes and **chose** what I did not delight in.” Therefore thus says the Lord God: “Behold, my servants shall eat, but you shall be hungry; behold, my servants shall drink, but you shall be thirsty; behold, my servants shall

rejoice, but you shall be put to shame; behold, my servants shall sing for gladness of heart, but you shall cry out for pain of heart and shall wail for breaking of spirit. You shall leave your name to my **chosen** for a curse, and the Lord God will put you to death, but his servants he will call by another name, so that he who blesses himself in the land shall bless himself by the God of truth, and he who takes an oath in the land shall swear by the God of truth; because the former troubles are forgotten and are hidden from my eyes. “For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in that which I create; for behold, I create Jerusalem to be a joy, and her people to be a gladness. I will rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in my people; no more shall be heard in it the sound of weeping and the cry of distress. No more shall there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not fill out his days, for the young man shall die a hundred years old, and the sinner a hundred years old shall be accursed. They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my **chosen** shall long enjoy the work of their hands.” -Isaiah 65:9-22 ESV

“This charge I entrust to you, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, holding faith and a good conscience. By rejecting this, some have made shipwreck of their faith, among whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.” -1 Timothy 1:18-20 ESV

“For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform signs and wonders, to lead astray, if possible, the elect.” -Mark 13:22 ESV

E. More Than That 34

“Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.” Hebrews 7:25 ESV

“My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.” -1 John 2:1 ESV

2. How Strong Is His Love? 35, 36

A. Does God Still Love You? 35

"The world is full of enemies, and as long as we are subject to the possibility of harm from these enemies, fear is inevitable. The effort to conquer fear without removing causes is altogether futile. ...As long as we are in the hands of chance, as long as we must look for hope in the law of averages, as long as we must trust for survival to our ability to outthink or outmaneuver the enemy, we have every good reason to be afraid. To know that love is of God and to enter into the secret place leaning upon the arm of the Beloved—this and only this can cast out fear. Let man become convinced that nothing can harm him and instantly for him all fear goes out of the universe. The nervous reflex, the natural revulsion to physical pain may be felt sometimes, but the deep torment of fear is gone forever. God is love and God is sovereign. His love disposes Him to desire our everlasting welfare..." AW Tozer, *The Knowledge of the Holy*, 106.

B. Personal Experience 36

"All this has come upon us, though we have not forgotten you, and we have not been false to your covenant. Our heart has not turned back, nor have our steps departed from your way; yet you have broken us in the place of jackals and covered us with the shadow of death. If we had forgotten the name of our God or spread out our hands to a foreign god, would not God discover this? For he knows the secrets of the heart. **Yet for your sake we are killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.**" -Psalm 44:17-22 ESV

"Are they servants of Christ? I am a better one—I am talking like a madman—with far greater labors, far more imprisonments, with countless beatings, and often near death. Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea; on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers; in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches. Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to fall, and I am not indignant?"
2 Corinthians 11:23-29 ESV

3. More Than Conquerors 37-39

A. Through Him Who Loved Us 37

"Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us." -1 John 4:8-12 ESV

B. Elements of Separation 38, 39

Reflection: Heading into the week of Easter, remembering the cross, and celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus, take some time to allow God to remind you that He is love and He loves you!

Follow UP in the Word this Week...

This week reflect on the last week of Jesus before His death and resurrection.

Monday: Luke 19:28-48. Jesus enters Jerusalem. What details included by Luke strike you most as you read over this again?

Tuesday: Luke 20:1-18. Who is Jesus debating in these passages and what does He say about them? What are their reactions?

Wednesday: Luke 21:1-38. Jesus speaks of the destruction of Jerusalem and His second coming. What details intrigue you most and which ones are hardest to understand? How would you explain this chapter to someone else?

Thursday: Luke 22:1-38. The Passover is being celebrated by Jesus. What is the significance of the Passover for Israel and how does Jesus help His disciples to understand this in light of who He is?

Friday: Luke 23:1-49. Reflect on all the details Luke included to consider all Jesus went through for you.

Saturday: Luke 23:50-56. Pay special attention to verse 56. After all Jesus had been through and they had gone through in that week, they rested. God was still working even on this day when they had to rest.