

Prayer:

Slide # 1
Romans

Theme: The Righteousness of God – The Gospel of God

Outline:

- **Prologue:** 1:1-17
- **Doctrinal:** 1:18-8:39
God’s holiness – man’s sinfulness – 1:18-3:20
Justification by grace through faith – 3:21-5:21
Sanctification of the believer – 6:1-8:39
- **Dispensational:** 9:1-11:36 (The place of Israel and the church)
- **Practical:** 12:1-15:33 (Duties and privileges of the believer)
- **Epilogue:** 16:1-27

The KEY verse for Romans is Romans 1:16.

Slide # 2

Romans 1:16 (NKJV)

16 For I am not ashamed of **the gospel** of Christ, for it is the **power of God to salvation for everyone who believes**, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

Romans emphasizes emphatically that justification is by faith ALONE.

Slide # 3

Romans 5:1 (NKJV)

1 Therefore, **having been justified by faith**, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

However, once we have come to saving faith we suddenly realize our battle with sin is not over. Yes, we are forgiven. Yes, we are freed from the penalty of sin, but we still struggle with the reality of indwelling sin.

Paul deals with this ongoing struggle at length in Romans 7.

Romans 7 is a chapter of frustration as Paul says...

Slide # 4

Romans 7:15 (NKJV)

15 For what I am doing, **I do not understand**. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but **what I hate, that I do**.

Romans 7:24 (NKJV)

24 O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?

The struggle and frustration of Romans 7 gives way to the relief of Romans 8. Romans 8 is all about the Holy Spirit who has come to live inside every true believer and His empowering presence makes all the difference. We still struggle with sin but we are not enslaved to it.

One of the things about wrestling with sin is that believers now HATE the sin that they fall into. And when the believer commits the sin they HATE, they not only feel guilty (which they are) but they often begin to wonder whether or not they are really saved. They reason like this: If I am saved why am I still struggling with sin like this? Why do I fail as I do?

In truth our great struggle with sin is evidence that we indeed are saved. We don't want to sin, and we hate it when we do. And so Romans 8 is a chapter on ASSURANCE. It is largely about SECURITY & ASSURANCE.

Yes, the struggle is real (Romans 7) but so is security (Romans 8).

Romans 8:1 begins with ***“There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus”*** and ends with nothing ***“shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord”*** (Rom. 8:38-39). And in the middle ***“all things work together for good to those who love God”*** (Rom. 8:28).

In Romans 8 Paul acknowledges that in these unredeemed bodies we suffer and we groan but this reality is countered with ASSURANCE upon ASSURANCE of the SECURITY that is found in Christ. Romans 8 is one long chapter on the security of the believer showing why we can have absolute ASSURANCE in our salvation.

In Romans 8:28-30 we have what is called ***“the golden chain of salvation”*** showing that God has had a plan with you as a believer in mind from the very beginning.

Slide # 5**Romans 8:28-30**

- God purposed...
- He foreknew...
- He predestined...
- He called...
- He justified...
- He glorified...

God has a plan that He has purposed for you as a believer and He will see it through to glorification. Thus, the believer is absolutely secure in Christ.

Believers often like to quote Jeremiah 29:11 which in context is really dealing with Israel, but the principle truth in view certainly has application to us as believers.

Slide # 6**Jeremiah 29:11 (NKJV)**

11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, **to give you a future and a hope**.

What God has **PURPOSED** for you as believer He foreknew and predestined and will certainly bring it to completion in glory. There is eternal security in Christ and God intends for you to have full assurance.

And with that emphasis in view Paul continues. We pick up our study today in Romans 8:31.

In Romans 8:31-39 there are two great emphases: 1) The impossibility of any charge being sustained against the believer as seen in verses 31-34; and 2) the impossibility of anything separating the believer from the love of God as seen in verses 35-39. Today our study is found in Romans 8:31-34.

Romans 8:31–34 (NKJV)

31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

Paul has just stated the golden chain of salvation, which goes from eternity past to eternity future and interacts with redemptive history in between.

For those who love God – God has purposed, foreknown, predestined, called, justified, and glorified. In the mind of God this package is ONE and is already a done deal!

What shall we say to these things? What shall we say to God's purposed golden chain of salvation?

Some have suggested "AMEN!" or "THANK YOU LORD" or "HALLELUJAH", or just "WOW". Others suggest that we can say nothing at all as we simply stand in amazement.

You could take it that the point is that there is nothing more to be said. Nothing can be added to this. From A to Z our salvation is all God's great plan! Someone has said, "We can no farther go, think, or wish."

Slide # 7

Ecclesiastes 3:14 (NKJV)

14 I know that whatever God does, It shall be forever. Nothing can be added to it, And nothing taken from it. God does it, that men should fear before Him.

This whole passage, to verse 34 and even to the end of the chapter, strikes all thoughtful interpreters and readers as transcending almost everything in language. - **Hermann Olshausen**

Paul here arrives at the mountain-height of Christian position! And that, so to speak, by way of experience. He does, indeed, in the word "us" bring all the saints with him. – **William Newell**

Paul now responds to his question "What shall we say to these things?" by asking a series of rhetorical questions that in effect dogmatically affirm the security of the believer.

He first asks the all encompassing question: ***"If God is for us, who can be against us?"***

The first thing to establish is this: Is God for you or against you? It is one or the other. There is no neutral position. The very worst conceivable enemy to have in the universe is God. God is so massively great and powerful that to have Him be against you should make one tremble!

Over and over in the Old Testament whenever God tells people that He is against them they are on the way down.

Slide # 8**Jeremiah 50:31 (NKJV)**

31 “Behold, **I am against you**, O most haughty one!” says the Lord GOD of hosts; “For your day has come, The time that I will punish you.

Pharaoh boldly took on the LORD (the God of Israel) and the LORD proceeded to bring down 10 plagues of judgment on him and the land of Egypt. By the time it was all done the entire army of Pharaoh was dead in the sea and the Hebrews were singing...

Slide # 9**Exodus 15:1 (NKJV)**

1 Then Moses and the children of Israel sang this song to the LORD, and spoke, saying: “**I will sing to the LORD, For He has triumphed gloriously! The horse and its rider He has thrown into the sea!**”

The military leader called “Rabshakeh” from Assyria dared to take on the God of Israel claiming He could not deliver them. But then the angel of the LORD went out and in one night killed 185,000 Assyrian warriors. So the king of Assyria quietly went home where he was promptly assassinated (1 Kings 19:35-37).

It never ends well for those who God is against! Only LOSERS take on God.

Slide # 10**Deuteronomy 7:10 (NKJV)**

10 and He repays those who hate Him to their face, to destroy them. He will not be slack with him who hates Him; He will repay him to his face.

Psalm 7:11 (NKJV)

11 God is a just judge, And God is angry with the wicked every day.

Here is the scary part – If you are not a Christian then God is not for you, but rather against you. You are in trouble – BIG trouble – ETERNAL trouble – even though you might not realize it. All those who are not saved are the enemies of God.

Slide # 11**Romans 5:10 (NKJV)**

10 For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

Before we were saved we were the enemies of God whether we knew it or not – whether we admitted it or not. By nature, we were the enemies of God. And that is a very bad place to be. Such a person is under the wrath of God and headed for eternal judgment.

Slide # 12**John 3:36 (ESV)**

36 Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

In 1741 Jonathan Edwards preached his famous sermon “***Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God***”.

“That world of misery, that lake of burning brimstone, is extended abroad under you! There is the dreadful pit of the glowing flames of the wrath of God! There is Hell’s wide gaping mouth open, and you have nothing to stand upon, nor anything to take hold of! ... ’Tis only the power and mere pleasure of God that holds you up!”

We, too, were under God's wrath, facing eternal damnation, but now, having responded to God's call, we believers have been justified by faith. Now, as those reconciled to God, we find that God is now for us!

To have God for us means that His purpose for us extends from foreknowing us in eternity past to glorification in the eternal future. It means that no one can thwart the PURPOSE of God for us. It is unstoppable because the sovereign purpose of God is unstoppable!

God is shown to be for us in that He adopted us (v. 15); He gave us His Spirit (16-17; 26-27); and His gracious purpose in foreknowing us, predestinating us, calling us, justifying us, and bringing us to glory. That only happens if God is FOR YOU!

One with God is a MAJORITY because God is greater than all! Who can be against us with God being for us? Absolutely no one! No one will ultimately prevail against us! God's working all things together for our ultimate good will be accomplished! We abide "under the shadow of the Almighty" and that is a very safe place to be – eternally secure (Ps. 91:1).

The flow of thought extends back to those who love God, to those who are called according to God's purpose as seen in verse 28. So, all the way through here at this point Paul is talking about true believers. Only believers can truly claim that "God is for us". And that only on the basis of grace.

But the statement is strong: Really, more accurately this should read, "**Since God is for us**". It is a reality for all of God's children! In truth "God is for us" expresses the sentiment of the gospel. The word "gospel" means "good news". It is the good news of Jesus Christ and what He has done for us so that we might be reconciled to God with the end result being "God is for us" and no one can change that reality!

No one change, cancel, or disrupt the sovereign good purpose of God that has the destination GLORY written all over it for every believer! The golden chain of our salvation cannot be broken! He who has begun a good work in you will complete it and nothing can stop it (Phil. 1:6).

We have many who are against us in this world. We wrestle with the forces of darkness including Satan and his angels (Eph. 6:12). The world hates Christ and His followers (Jn. 15:18-19). But God is sovereign over them all and we are in His safe keeping.

Yes, as with Job sometimes Satan is allowed to have certain liberties with us but even then God is sovereign over all that happens and the end for us will be glory. And in the meantime God is working all things together in the BIG scheme of things for our ultimate good. Ultimately no one can prevail against the sovereign plan of God for us as His children.

We are immortal until our work here is done!

Often in the weakness of our faith we fail to properly appreciate the words, "God is for us". We often fail Him, but He is for us. We are ignorant, but He is for us. We are not that fruitful, but He is for us. Name whatever short coming you will, if you are a true believer GOD IS FOR YOU! Believe it – walk in the glory of it! This truth will set you free!

True story about a saint who was dying. As the pastor came to see him he read Romans 8:31 to him. The dying saint said, “*Read those words again!*” And so the pastor read, “***If God is for us, who can be against us?***” The elderly saint murmured in a kind of ecstasy, “That’s it! That’s it!” Indeed, that’s it! If God is for us, then all is well for time and all eternity!

And then to develop the thought Paul now goes on in rhetorical fashion to show HOW God is for us.

32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

This is the greatest proof that God is for us – He did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all”.

The language of “did not spare His own Son” is similar to that in Genesis 22 where Abraham was willing to offer up his son Isaac.

Slide # 13

Genesis 22:16 (NKJV)

16 and said: “By Myself I have sworn, says the LORD, because you have done this thing, and have **not withheld your son, your only son**—

However, while Abraham in type offered up Isaac, God in actuality did deliver up His Son to die on the cross. In the giving of His Son God has in effect given ALL. “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son...” (Jn. 3:16).

Who actually delivered Jesus up? Clearly, in one sense Judas delivered Jesus up to die (Matt. 20:18); then also the Jewish leaders delivered Jesus up to the Gentiles (Matt. 20:19); The people of Jerusalem also are held accountable for delivering up Jesus (Acts 3:13); Pilate delivered up Jesus to die (Mark 15:15); in Romans 4:25 Paul says Jesus “was delivered up because of our offenses” – so we in a sense delivered Him up too. And then Jesus said that He Himself laid down His life (Jn. 10:18). But behind all of this was God the Father who delivered up His Son for us.

Slide # 14

Isaiah 53:4 (NKJV)

4 Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, **Smitten by God**, and afflicted.

Isaiah 53:6 (NKJV)

6 All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And **the LORD has laid on** Him the iniquity of us all.

Isaiah 53:10 (NKJV)

10 Yet it **pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief.** When **You make His soul an offering for sin**, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, And the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand.

This ultimately was God's doing! Jesus is God's Lamb. He is the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world (Jn. 1:29).

Slide # 15**Acts 2:23 (NKJV)**

23 Him, being delivered by the **determined purpose and foreknowledge of God**, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death;

This was the plan of God all along! God is for us! He has made every provision for our ultimate good for all eternity. How much is God for us? So much so that He gave His Son to die for us!

For (Gk. huper) means "on behalf of". Jesus died for us – on our behalf – as our substitute (cf. Rom. 5:8).

And the argument is from the greater to the lesser. If God gave His Son for well then certainly He will give us all things lesser.

Imagine if you had an elaborate basketball gymnasium built for your son in the backyard. Now when you finally get it all built can you imagine not providing for him a basketball! MOST certainly, if you have provided the greater you will do the lesser – how much more so with God.

"How shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?" Again, the question is rhetorical with the sense being that He certainly will do this.

Paul has already stated in verse 17 that we are “heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ”. As believers God “has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ” (Eph. 1:3). His “divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness” (2 Pet. 1:3). Every good and perfect gift is from above – from the Father of lights Who works all things together for our good. From His fullness we have “received grace upon grace” (Jn. 1:16). “All the promises of God are Yes, and in Amen, to the glory of God” (2 Cor. 1:20). And there “have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises” (2 Pet. 1:4). And the very best is yet to be as God works all things together for good culminating in glorification (Rom. 8:28-30).

Slide # 16

Revelation 21:7 (NKJV)

7 He who overcomes **shall inherit all things**, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.

Can you imagine having a father who is a billionaire and leaves you all things in the will? Wow! But as a believer, God is your Father, and you “shall inherit all things.” I can’t even begin to fathom what this means! But I know it is GOOD beyond measure or comprehension. God is for us! He gave His Son for us. He will freely give us ALL things!

The kingdom is ours! We will share in Christ’s glory! In the Father’s hand “are pleasures forevermore” (Ps. 16:11).

Slide # 17

1 Corinthians 3:21–23 (NKJV)

21 Therefore let no one boast in men. For **all things are yours:**

22 whether **Paul** or **Apollos** or **Cephas**, or the **world** or **life** or **death**, or **things present** or **things to come—all are yours.**

23 And you are Christ’s, and Christ is God’s.

What more could God do for us – what more could God give us than that which He has done for us? It’s all good and the very BEST is yet to be!

A wealthy Roman had a son who broke his heart and a slave who commanded his admiration. He decided on his bed to disinherit his son and leave everything to his slave, **Marcellus**. He drew up the papers and called in his son to tell him what he had done. "I have deeded everything to the slave Marcellus," he said. "However, you may choose one item from my estate for yourself." "I'll take Marcellus!" was the son's reply. When we take Christ, we take all.

-Taken from John Phillips book Exploring Romans

33 Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.

The word "elect" simply means "chosen". The great debate over election is over the issue of "**Whose Choice?**" Did God choose the believer purely out of His sovereign prerogative, or did He choose us based on His knowing we would choose Him? Those have been the two main positions down through church history.

Note the language here: "**God's elect**". We don't find that the unbeliever of their own accord ever elects God – rather it is the other way around. It is God Who elects. The emphasis is on God's choice. Now there is lots of debate over how this interacts with human responsibility – as I addressed at some length last week.

But note that the INITIATOR is always God. Left to themselves, depraved people NEVER even seek after God, as Paul says in Romans 3:11. It was God who came after Adam in the garden. We love Him because He first loved us (1 Jn. 4:19). We sought Jesus because He first came to seek and to save the lost (Lk. 19:10). We chose Him because He first chose us (Jn. 15:16). I came to Him because He first drew me (Jn. 6:44, 65). We came to understand because He first enlightened us (Matt. 16:16-17; Acts 16:14; 1 Cor. 2:14).

But even so, it is still past finding out exactly how God's sovereign election intersects with human responsibility.

Slide # 18

The reasons or criteria for His choice have not been told to us, except that it was according to His own good pleasure (Eph. 1:9).

– Homer Kent Jr.

The whosoever wills are the elect and the whosoever won'ts are the non-elect. – **D.L. Moody**

Slide # 19

Ephesians 1:4 (NASB)

4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love

Ephesians 1:4 (NOTE THE 5 W'S THIS VERSE ANSWERS!) just as He (WHAT?) **chose** (WHO?) us (WHERE?) in Him (WHEN?) before the foundation of the world, (WHY?) that we would be holy and blameless before Him. – ***Precept Austin***

Chose (1586) (eklego/eklegomai from **ek** = out, out of, out from + **légo** = select, choose) means literally to select out, single out or choose out of. – ***Precept Austin***

Suffice it to say the elect are the saved – those who come to faith in Christ. Earlier in verse 28 they are said to be those who love God. They are the called according to God's purpose, whom He foreknew, Whom He predestined, Whom He called, Whom He justified, Whom He glorified (Rom. 8:28-30). They are those whom God is for.

However, God's sovereignty and human responsibility intersect; these are God's chosen people. And those who are the elect are "in" forever! They cannot become non-elect. They are chosen with the determined outcome of glory.

How do you know you are elect? When you come to faith you know it because believers are the elect. We can leave the God side to God. It is good with Him! Our responsibility is to believe on Him (Jn. 3:18).

The question: ***Who shall bring a charge against God's elect?*** is then answered with ***It is God who justifies.*** The language of "charge" and "justifies" is the language of the court. The idea of a charge is that of a formal accusation such as pressing charges in a court case (cf. Acts 19:40; 23:29; 26:2).

Charge (v. 33) is a judicial term used for asserting that one was guilty of a crime and liable to prosecution and punishment.

– ***The Moody Bible Commentary***

"Justifies" is a judicial declaration like a Judge would make. It is an official declaration that declares someone right or righteous!

When he asks, "Who will bring a charge against God's elect?" he is not saying that no one will try, but only that they cannot succeed. And here the devil is the leading culprit.

The name Satan means "adversary" and the name "Devil" means "slanderer" or literally "one who throws things against you."

The devil on a regular basis has reason to accuse us because we fail. As James says, “We all stumble in many things” (James 3:2). The elect do love God, but they still often fail. And in this regard the devil still has a lot to work with. He very well may be right in his accusations in terms of our sin.

Slide # 20

Revelation 12:10 (NKJV)

10 Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, “Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for **the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night**, has been cast down.

The devil is constantly trying his hardest to bring a charge against us as God’s elect. He still has limited access to God as seen in the book of Job and he seeks to accuse us day and night.

There is debate over whether Satan can inject accusatory or evil thoughts into our minds, or whether these thoughts originate within us. It seems to me that his role as accuser implies that somehow he is able to remind us of our guilt. Sometimes, you just can’t shake off those feelings, even after you’ve repented and confessed the sin to the Lord. At such times, it’s not the Holy Spirit convicting you, in that you have responded to His conviction by repentance. Rather, you’re under attack from the accuser of the brethren. – **Steven Cole**

How our thoughts interact in spiritual warfare with the devil is not fully known but he definitely has the ability to work in hearts (cf. Eph. 6:12). Remember when Ananias and Sapphira lied about their giving. Peter then confronted Ananias and said, “***why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit...?***” (Acts 5:3)

Paul here doesn’t deal with the source of the charge – just saying “who shall bring a charge?” Maybe it is the devil, maybe it is someone with a critical spirit, maybe it is our own conscience. And maybe it gets to where we wonder whether or not we are even saved.

Sometimes when Christians are guilty or still feeling guilty even after confession, they may begin to wonder whether or not they are even saved. Even though they love Jesus they still wrestle with these thoughts. The devil loves to rally the charges in this case and do all he can to try and get us to doubt and question our salvation. And remember the devil who is a liar is good at what he does!

Paul's response to any charge against the elect is that "It is God who justifies." Taken by faith – that shuts down all charges!

Slide # 21

Ephesians 6:16 (NKJV)

16 above all, taking **the shield of faith** with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

If God has chosen people and those chosen are justified – well then how could anyone ever bring a charge against them that would stick? And the point is they can't! How are we justified? Well, Paul covered this earlier in the book in some detail. He made a dual emphasis that we are justified by the blood of Christ in combination with faith.

Slide # 22

Romans 5:1 (NKJV)

1 Therefore, having been **justified by faith**, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Romans 5:9 (NKJV)

9 Much more then, having now been **justified by His blood**, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.

Slide # 23

Revelation 12:10–11 (NKJV)

10 Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the **accuser of our brethren, who accused** them before our God day and night, has been cast down.

11 And they **overcame him by the blood of the Lamb** and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.

There are no charges that will hold against God's elect, because God in fact has declared them righteous on the basis of faith in the blood of Jesus. At the moment of saving faith, the sovereign God of the universe brought His gavel down (as it were) and thundered, "***I declare them righteous!***" Who could possibly argue otherwise?

The verdict has already been pronounced by God and He has never lost a case. His verdict is FINAL! When God speaks that ends the argument!

The devil tries, the critic tries, and the enemies of God's people try, but all are unsuccessful. No one can overrule God! He has made the judicial ruling declaring them righteous and that stands forever!

A Scottish physician was noted for his skill and piety. After his death, when his books were examined, several accounts had written across them in red ink: "Forgiven...to poor to pay." His wife, who was a different disposition said, "These accounts must be paid." She therefore sued for the money. The judge asked her, "Is this your husband's handwriting in red ink?" She replied in the affirmative.

Then said the judge, "there's not a tribunal in the land that can obtain the money where he has written, "Forgiven." So likewise when God declares the elect "justified" it is as though He has written in red by the blood of His Son "declared righteous" and there is not a charge in the universe that can challenge it.

Believer you might be concerned about your sins but come back to the cross, come back to the truth of the blood of Jesus. No charges can prevail against you no matter how accurate they might be because Jesus paid for all your sins, and by faith, by the blood of Jesus you are justified for ever and ever (cf. Zech. 3:1-7).

They say there may be some lawyers in heaven, but as they say there is only ONE Who is practicing. And that is Jesus. He is our Advocate – our defense lawyer.

Slide # 24

1 John 2:1–2 (NKJV)

1 My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, **we have an Advocate** with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

2 And **He Himself is the propitiation for our sins**, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

The truth of justification by faith should cause the believer to be very confident. No charges against us can stand. God has spoken! That ends the argument. No ifs, ands, or buts about it. God justifies and has justified His people of faith forever answers to any and all charges! Believer, your case has been settled in the highest court of the universe, and it can't be challenged, amended, or appealed. If the JUDGE of the universe is on your side and He has declared you righteous then your case is forever settled. Rest there! Let that be your confidence!

34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.

All these rhetorical questions are related in that they knock down any and all challenges to the believer's security, making the case for absolute total security.

Slide # 25

Who can be against us? (v. 31)

Who shall bring a charge? (v. 33)

Who is he who condemns? (v. 34)

A. ABSOLUTELY NO ONE!!!

In each case, the answer is NO ONE! No one can stand against us. No one can bring a charge. No one can condemn! Condemnation has the sense of punishment for sin!

“Who is he who condemns?” is a rhetorical question and is answered by four affirmations about Christ. These four actions of Christ forever show there is no condemnation for those in Christ which is where the chapter began in Romans 8:1 by saying, there is “no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus”.

Who is he who condemns? Certainly not Christ! He is the One who died for us – who died for our sins. John 5:22 (cf. 5:27) says the Father “has committed all judgment to the Son” (cf. Acts 17:31). Jesus is the Judge of all, but He certainly is not going to condemn the elect that He died for because in fact He is their SAVIOR! There is only person in the universe with the authority to condemn but He is the very One Who died for us!

In Romans 3:24-25 Paul said we are “justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus who God set forth as a propitiation by His blood through faith”; in 5:8 he said, “Christ died for us”, and in 8:32 we have seen that God delivered up His Son for us. The gospel is that “Christ died for our sins” (1 Cor. 15:3).

Furthermore, He is also risen, PROVING that God has accepted His full payment for our sins. Romans 4:25 says Jesus “***was raised because of our justification.***”

The resurrection verified all the claims of Christ, including that His death was a ransom for sin, just as He said in Mark 10:45 (cf. Matt. 12:39-40).

And following His resurrection Christ was exalted to sit at the right hand of God. This is the HIGHEST position of honor in the universe. At least 21 times in the Scripture Christ is said to be seated at the right hand of God.

He is at the right hand of God, indicating that He shares God's authority, and that no higher authority exists who can turn Him against His people. – ***The Moody Bible Commentary***

And there at the right hand of God Jesus “also makes intercession for us.” In verse 26 we see it is the Spirit that makes intercession; but here in verse 34 it is the Son. Thus, we have a divine representative intimately living inside making intercession and we have a divine representative in heaven at God's right hand making intercession for us. We are well represented on earth and in heaven. It's all covered.

We should interpret the intercession passages in the light of frequent references to sitting at the right hand of God, His presence at God's right hand in His capacity as the One who died for sinners and rose again is itself an intercession. – ***Leon Morris***

Slide # 26

Hebrews 1:3 (NKJV)

3 who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had **by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand** of the Majesty on high,

Hebrews 10:12 (NKJV)

12 But this Man, **after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God,**

It is true that Christ's completed payment for sin is consistently linked with Him being seated at the right hand of God. He is seated there because His sacrificial work is complete. The priests in the OT never sat down. There were no chair in the tabernacle or temple. Their sacrificial work was never done. But Christ's sacrificial work is DONE, and the only thing that remains is His intercessory work which stands as an eternal pledge to the efficacy of His accomplished work on the cross.

Jesus as our Savior is there at the right hand of God forever representing us as our Advocate. No one can get to the Father with charges against us without going through Jesus our Savior – and that aint never going to happen.

If Jesus ever ceased to be there for us immediately it would be over for us. But Jesus ever lives to intercede for us.

Slide # 27

Hebrews 7:25 (NKJV)

25 Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since **He always lives to make intercession for them.**

As believers we still struggle with sin. We hate it when we mess up. We believe in Jesus as our Lord and Savior. We love God, and yet we are miserable failures.

Are we really right with God? Are we really secure in our relationship with Him? Paul answers in the affirmative as strongly as it can possibly be stated!

Slide # 28

- God is for us!
- God justifies us!
- Christ died for us, rose again for us, is at the right hand of God for us, and makes intercession for us.

In the Bible when God states something once it is CERTAIN. When He repeats it twice such as when Jesus says, “Truly, truly” it is making a dogmatic emphasis.

But when something is stated three times such as in Isaiah 6:3 where it says “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD” it is stated in the superlative – meaning it is stated as strongly as it can possibly be stated.

When it comes to believers in Christ Paul in Romans 8:31-34 states our security in the superlative!

Slide # 29



Our security rests in God HOLDING us – not in our fragile grip on Him!

All the way through here the emphasis is on God.

God's purpose for us; God foreknowing, predestining, calling, justifying, and glorifying us. God being for us, God delivering up His Son for us, God freely giving us all things, Christ's dying for us, rising for us, being at the right hand for us and interceding for us.

Assurance does not come by focusing on SELF but rather by focusing on God and what He has done for us!

It's all what He does for us! This is where we find our security!

So, "***What then shall we say to these things?***"

How about:

PRAISE THE LORD!
 HALLELUJAH!
 THANK YOU LORD!
 ALL GLORY TO GOD!

As I often say, "***It's all about Him!***"