

The 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost ~ Sunday, September 24, 2023

“Life in the Spirit: God Is For Us”

Romans 8:31-35

“What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else?

Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?”

(Romans 8:31-35)

Over and over again Paul stops to ask this question. And I suspect it's because it was an important part of his agenda that the conclusions that arise from his teaching would be clearly \_\_\_\_\_ and embraced by his audience.

That's what all faithful \_\_\_\_\_ and teaching should aim to do. It's not enough to simply \_\_\_\_\_ the facts, outline doctrine, or reveal the truths contained in Scripture. We also need to ask the \_\_\_\_\_ question—we need to \_\_\_\_\_ it to our lives,

To put it another way, do you come to church as a \_\_\_\_\_ consumer, or do you come rolling up your sleeves ready to get to work applying the message of the Scriptures to your own \_\_\_\_\_, with the deep conviction that in the preaching of God's Word, God is speaking to you?

There's a sense in which the four application questions that Paul asks here are like the cracking of the Enigma code, because they let us in on the enemy's \_\_\_\_\_, which is enormously helpful as we seek to successfully engage in the spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ that's all around us.

This should tip us off to the \_\_\_\_\_ at play in this whole question of Christian assurance, which you'll remember is Paul's great concern in this chapter—for us to know and feel the reality of our \_\_\_\_\_ before God in Christ. And Paul knows that a significant part of our struggle with assurance and spiritual confidence has to do with personal, supernatural \_\_\_\_\_.

We need to face the fact that behind our battles with assurance, spiritual confidence in the love of God for us, and so much else that we struggle with in

our Christian lives, there is a \_\_\_\_\_ at work in constant opposition to the design of God for us.

Scripture is clear that we have an \_\_\_\_\_, the devil, “who prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour,” as we read in 1 Peter 5:8. He's our \_\_\_\_\_ who seeks to assault us and bring us into condemnation and destruction.

The escalating scale in these four questions unmasks the enemy's fourfold strategy against us: \_\_\_\_\_.

#### 4 APPLICATION QUESTIONS

**Question #1:** \_\_\_\_\_?

Because of everything that God has done for us, who could possibly mount a successful \_\_\_\_\_ against God's purposes for our eternal good? What possible enemy can be found to \_\_\_\_\_ the will of God for His people?

If God is for us, we needn't \_\_\_\_\_ any enemy—even the enemy who is constantly seeking to destroy, undermine, and \_\_\_\_\_ us.

We need to see this gnawing, niggling \_\_\_\_\_ that God doesn't like us very much for what it truly is—a tool of the enemy to rob us of \_\_\_\_\_.

If we draw our \_\_\_\_\_ in the love of God for us from the well of our personal \_\_\_\_\_ in life, when the well dries up our assurance will die!

Paul tells us that there's a fountain that'll never run out, an inexhaustible supply of \_\_\_\_\_ proving that God is for us, beyond all question, no matter what our circumstances.

The spring that bubbles up even in a drought with cool, refreshing drafts of hope, assurance, and consolation that God is always for His children is that He didn't even \_\_\_\_\_ His Son, but gave Him up to make you His child. The cross is the \_\_\_\_\_, so to speak of the Father's love, and on Calvary, God preaches His love and \_\_\_\_\_ to us.

The next time you \_\_\_\_\_ God's love for you or are tempted to believe the voice of the enemy whispering poison into your ear—look to the \_\_\_\_\_.

**Question #2:** \_\_\_\_\_?

Those against whom the accusations come are the \_\_\_\_\_ people of God—those whom, as we established last Sunday, have been foreloved and

predestined before the foundation of the world.

Yes, we're all \_\_\_\_\_. And so, it's right for us to grieve over our sin. However, with God's help, and as we seek to cling to Christ, we can overthrow and \_\_\_\_\_ sin in our lives, more and more. And yet, the reality of sin will always remain with us to some \_\_\_\_\_, until we go to be with Jesus.

And so, the enemy, our \_\_\_\_\_, our neighbours and colleagues, even our friends and family may sometimes point their fingers in \_\_\_\_\_ at us, pressing the lawsuit against us. And the truth is, we really have no \_\_\_\_\_ when it comes to the facts of the case.

We're guilty before God. However, having given up His Son for us, the God who is for us has declared us \_\_\_\_\_ in His sight. Not because of anything we've done, but because Jesus, the righteous One, has \_\_\_\_\_ the penalty for our guilt in full. Because of Jesus, we go \_\_\_\_\_!

With these words, the enemy's strategy begins to \_\_\_\_\_, each pillar topples like dominoes, one after the other

**Question #3:** \_\_\_\_\_?

The cross and empty tomb, the reign and intercession of Christ, are \_\_\_\_\_. Nothing can change that, nor the \_\_\_\_\_ that Jesus's finished work have for us.

Jesus died under our \_\_\_\_\_, He rose for our \_\_\_\_\_, He reigns for our \_\_\_\_\_, and He intercedes for our daily \_\_\_\_\_. Jesus is a complete, \_\_\_\_\_ Saviour. And because of this—because of what He accomplished on our behalf—no one can \_\_\_\_\_ us.

Jesus is a \_\_\_\_\_ Saviour. Everything we \_\_\_\_\_ is in Him. He died, rose, reigns, and prays for us right now. If we are in Christ, condemnation is no longer a possibility in our case. It's just not \_\_\_\_\_.

**Question #4:** \_\_\_\_\_?

This is a pretty powerful question—especially given our experience of how \_\_\_\_\_ our human relationships can be.

Having been well-schooled by past \_\_\_\_\_, you try to protect yourself from ever being \_\_\_\_\_ again. When we do this, we can begin to worry that maybe someone or something can come between us and the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ, like in our other relationships—or that maybe the love of Christ comes

with some \_\_\_\_\_ attached, and it too can be suddenly yanked out from under us like a rug. And so we \_\_\_\_\_ to protect ourselves, and never fully \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves to Him.

You can answer your fearful heart and your guilty conscience, you can answer the mocking accusations of your enemies and all the charges of the enemy with this one word: \_\_\_\_\_. Nothing can drive a wedge between our heart and the heart of Jesus Christ. Nothing can break the grip of His love. Nothing can make Him \_\_\_\_\_ up on us. Nothing in us, nothing we do or don't do, nothing that's \_\_\_\_\_ about us, nothing that's done to us. He'll never walk away from us. He'll never give up on us. He'll never \_\_\_\_\_ because nothing can separate us from His love.

### At Home Work

**Is there something about today's sermon that I need to:**

- Admit
- Believe
- Change in me
- Demonstrate
- Share
- Confess
- Research further

**NOTES:**