

Our Greatness In Christ

Introduction. Romans 8 is one of the finest chapters in Romans. As the first section of Romans comes to a close, chapter 8 gathers up various strands of thought from the entire discussion of both justification and sanctification, and ties them together with the crowning knot of glorification. Like chapter 5, it presents the blessings of the justified life, grounded in the removal of condemnation. Like chapter 6, it stresses freedom from the bondage of sin and ultimately from the bondage of death. Like chapter 7, it deals with the problem of the flesh, finding the solution in obedience to Jesus Christ. The chapter begins with instruction, rises to consolation, and culminates in jubilation. This is high and holy ground indeed for the Christian to tread. We're going to look at the wonderful, final section of Romans 8:31-39.

I. The Great Challenge To The World

- A. Who can be against us?
 - 1. Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world (1 John 4:4).
 - 2. All the resources of God are for those who are for Him. If God is for us, it matters little who is against us (Psalm 118:6).
- B. Who can hinder God from giving us all things?
 - 1. Being reconciled, we will be saved in His life (Romans 5:10). If God gave us the greatest, most precious gift, the gift of His Son, He will not withhold any of the lesser blessings that might be good for us (Ephesians 1:3).
 - 2. This is proof that with God, every need will be met. You are Christ's, and everything is yours. "All things" will work together for your good (v. 28).
- C. Who can lay anything to our charge?
 - 1. The heritage of the servants of the Lord is that no weapon formed against us will prosper (Isaiah 54:17). When Satan attempted to bring a charge against Joshua, the Lord rebuked him (Zechariah 3:1-2).
 - 2. The word "elect" means "picked out, chosen." God does not choose at random; there is a reason for the choice He makes. He chooses, or elects, all who obey Him, regardless of race, social standing, or financial standing. God will not lay anything to the charge of His chosen ones; He justifies them. Therefore, only those whom God does not justify will be condemned (v. 1).
- D. Who can separate us from the love of Christ?
 - 1. The Lord's people are redeemed by the blood of Christ (Revelation 5:9) and are too precious to be easily parted with (John 10:28-29). The Father, having loved His own which were in the world, loved them to the end (John 13:1).
 - 2. All of the evils mentioned are what comes on us from without. If a man truly loves Christ as he should, none of what is mentioned will destroy that love; only the conditions of our own heart can cause us to cease loving Him.

II. The Great Victory Of The Christian

- A. We are to be conquerors.
 - 1. We are not slaves to the fashions and pleasures of the world, but victors for God. Having been born of God, we belong to a holy class and have

- overcome the world through faith. “Conqueror” suggests a lopsided victory in which the enemy or opponent is completely routed.
2. All of the items mentioned by Paul are always with us, but faith gives the victory (1 John 5:4). We are delivered to death for Jesus’ sake (2 Corinthians 4:8-11). This present world keeps in the place of death those who have the life of Jesus in them, but they conquer and press on (Philippians 3:14).
- B. We are to be more than conquerors.
1. Enemies are not only subdued, but brought as willing servants into the Lord’s work. Saul was more than conquered when he became a preacher of the gospel he hated (1 Timothy 1:12-13; Acts 26:15-18).
 2. To be more than conquerors, we have to be more than conquered. It is not enough that we be overcome; there must be the willing and entire surrender of ourselves to God (Matthew 16:24-25).
 3. In conquering, we have grown in character and in favor with God. Therefore, even the evil with which our enemies meant to crush us may be so used as to work to our good.
- C. We are to be more than conquerors through Him that loved us.
1. The power of conquest and aggressive work for God is not in ourselves, nor in our plans and organizations, but in God who works in us (1 Corinthians 15:10).
 2. It is the Lord who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 15:57). Saints overcome by the blood of the Lamb (Revelation 12:11). The blood of the Lamb is the sharp edge of the sword of the word, the Spirit’s holy weapon (Ephesians 6:17; Hebrews 4:12).

III. The Great Love Of The Lord

- A. The nature of it.
1. God is love, so that in manifesting His love He manifests Himself. When we find the Lord, we find love (1 John 4:8, 10).
 2. It is not so special that we love God, but that He loved us (1 John 4:19). This perfectly manifests the love God requires of us (Matthew 5:43-48).
- B. The medium of it.
1. Jesus Christ is the mediator between God and man (1 Timothy 2:5). Jacob dreamed of a ladder that reached from the earth into heaven (Genesis 28:12), and in one sense, this describes the work of Jesus.
 2. In Him was manifested the love of God toward us that we might live through Him (John 14:6).
- C. The objects of it.
1. He loved us and gave Himself for us (John 3:16). The Lord Jesus is the propitiation for our sins (1 John 2:2).
 2. God fully did this when we were dead in our trespasses and sins (Ephesians 2:1-2).
- D. The power of it.
1. The mundane matters of life may be allowed at times to separate us from Him, but nothing can separate us from His love. The love of the Lord is stronger than even death.

2. If a man loves Christ as he should, none of what was mentioned will destroy that love. However, there is one element omitted from the list — ourselves.
 3. We can do what neither death, life, angels, principalities, things present, things to come, powers, height, depth or any other creature can do — even the devil (cp. Jude 21).
- E. The assurance of it.
1. It is a great testimony when we can truthfully corroborate God's love (1 John 4:16). Having the love of God shed abroad in our hearts is a true secret of a joyful and contented life (Romans 5:5).
 2. Love cannot be destroyed by force or by imperial command, but it can grow cold (Matthew 24:11-12). Some even depart from their first love (Revelation 2:4). Paul recognized that people might depart from the faith, but he was persuaded that no evils coming on us from without could destroy the love of God. In Christ, God's love for us and our love for Him come together.

Conclusion. So Paul finishes a magnificent piece of eloquence. If all that has been said today appeals to you, why not join the legion of those who are obedient to the Master? Through your obedience today you can have the full greatness that is found in Christ. If you have committed sin that has pulled you away from God, then confess and repent of that sin if it is public, and take it to the Lord if it is private.