

**Overwhelming Love**  
Romans 8:31—39

We have found out the following in Chapter 8:

1. Free from condemnation.
  - a. The Law of the Spirit—life in Christ Jesus.
  - b. Father sent His Son.
  - c. Son died for sinners.
2. Free from the power of sin.
  - a. We now walk according to the Spirit.
  - b. We are sons of God.
3. Survival tools.
  - a. Holy Spirit intercedes for us.
  - b. God is active in the believer's life.
    - 1) He works all things out according to His supreme plan.
    - 2) God involves us in fulfilling His purpose.
4. We have a certainty of future glorification.

We now finish chapter 8 with:

5. God's overwhelming love.

**Verse 31**

This verse seems to summarize the effects of the previous two verses. God is in control of the believer's eternal destiny from start to finish. There is nothing that can move God to change His mind about His relationship with the believer. He knew the destiny of believers since before creation. He has prearranged for believers to be conformed to the image of the Son. He has called us saints and justified us. He sees us as having been already glorified. How much more secure can He make us? What else could He do to banish any fear of losing our salvation? This passage in Ephesians emphasizes God's work in the believer's life. If God views us as His until we are with Him then shouldn't we have that same confidence?

**Ephesians 1:4—8** <sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, <sup>4</sup>just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him In love <sup>5</sup>He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, <sup>6</sup>to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup>In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace <sup>8</sup>which He lavished on us...

**2 Timothy 1:9** who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity,

As this verse says, how can anyone stand up against us if God is on our side? He will stand with us to the end of eternity and there is nothing or no one who is able to change that.

**Verse 32**

God was willing to give up His Son to die for us and become an object of wrath. He knew He would turn His back on His own Son and forsake Him. Jesus Christ was also a willing participant in God's plan of salvation by giving up His life for our sake.

**Galatians 1:4** who gave Himself for our sins so that He might rescue us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father,

**Galatians 2:20** "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

**Ephesians 5:2** and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.

The reason Jesus needed to be delivered over to godless men and die is because of sin (Romans 4:25). He was the only and perfect sacrifice who could do away with our sin

**Hebrews 10:12** but He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, SAT DOWN AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD,

**Galatians 1:4** who gave Himself for our sins so that He might rescue us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father,

After Jesus Christ was sacrificed, God could then begin justifying those who believe.

**Romans 4:25** He who was delivered over because of our transgressions, and was raised because of our justification.

### Verses 33—34

Paul reiterates that there is none who can bring us down, none who can bring a charge against us. Once God has justified us we are seen as completely innocent and free from sin. Our record of past offenses is wiped clean. As in a court setting, a person who is found to be free of any offense cannot be found guilty of any crime. The same is true of God's elect. We are found to be innocent and therefore cannot be charged with anything.

Not only that, but Jesus Christ is continually intercedes for the believer. God justifies and Jesus Christ intercedes, both are in the present tense indicating continuous action. Satan is shown to be an accuser. I find it interesting that Paul never portrays Satan as an accuser against a member of the Body of Christ. Could this be because we have a special relationship with Christ? If we are already justified by God the Father through the work of Jesus Christ and if Jesus Christ is continually making intercession for us, is it possible for Satan to accuse us of anything? We know that Satan and his cohorts are active in the life of a believer but we can take comfort that Satan needs permission to make any move against us. The following verses relate to Satan's activity with Israel:

**Zechariah 3:1** Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him.

**Luke 22:31**"Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat;

**Revelation 12:10**Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night.

Satan is still a force to be reckoned with for the Body believer. Satan comes to us undercover, as an angel of light. He works to see that God's plans will be thwarted and the believer is defeated. God, however, has given the believer the tools to make sure we are not defeated but can stand firm and unmovable in Christ. The idea that Satan is at God's right-hand accusing us is not found in Paul's writings. He eventually will be defeated. These are some of the verses that relate to Satan's activity with members of the Body of Christ:

**2 Corinthians 11:14** No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.

**1 Thessalonians 2:18** For we wanted to come to you--I, Paul, more than once--and yet Satan hindered us.

**Ephesians 6:11** Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.

**1 Timothy 3:7** And he must have a good reputation with those outside the church, so that he will not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

**Romans 16:20** The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.

### Verse 35—37

Paul wrote verse 35 out of his experiences. From 2 Corinthians 6:4—5 and 11:23—27 we can see how Paul suffered for the sake of Christ, possible all orchestrated by Satan (with God's permission).

Is there anything that can come between God and the believer? Actually, This verse starts out with *who* shall separate us from the love of God, not *what* shall separate us. The focus of this verse is on those who would try to come between the believer and God's love. These people would try to turn us away from our love of God through tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, peril or sword. These people would probably be driven by Satan in an attempt to cripple the believer. Fortunately, God's love for us is unchangeable and eternal.

Suffering is not an indication that God has turned His back on a believer. Just the opposite is true; a believer will suffer because God loves him and has called him into service.

**Philippians 1:29** For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake,

In spite of all these sufferings we are able to not just overcome but super-overcome. Not just conquer but super-conquer. Not just be victorious but also be abundantly victorious. All of this comes through God the Father who loved us. This love is past tense (aorist) meaning it was instigated in our past, probably referring back to Christ's death on the cross. God loved us before that event but was manifested when Christ died. God's love is not dependant upon external events such as those listed in verse 35.

### **Verses 38—39**

Paul concludes this chapter with absolute assurance that nothing at all in this universe and beyond can come between God and the believer; anywhere from death to life, anyone from the spirit world to human rulers, anything in this world or the next, any place from high to low. Even a believer is incapable of separating himself from God's love. The love that sent Jesus Christ to the cross to die for those who were God's enemies is the same love that holds a believer forever secure.

**Romans 5:5—8** <sup>5</sup>and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us. <sup>6</sup>For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup>For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. <sup>8</sup>But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

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