

GOD IS FOR US

ROMANS 8:31-39

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

32He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

33Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.

34Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

35Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

36As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

37Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

38For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

39Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

ESV

Introduction

During quail season in Georgia, an Atlanta journalist met an old farmer hunting with an old pointer at his side. Twice the dog ran rheumatically ahead and pointed. Twice his master fired into the open air. When the journalist saw no birds rise, he asked the farmer for an explanation.

"Shucks," grinned the old man, "I knew there weren't no birds in that grass. Spot's nose ain't what it used to be but him and me have had some wonderful times together. He's still doing the best he can -- and it'd be mighty mean of me to call him a liar at this stage of the game!"

Do you have anyone on your side? Someone who always backs you and believes in you like that old farmer backed his old dog? Sadly, I think perhaps there are more people who believe more in their dogs than they do their friends.

There are times when friends may fail us or even forsake us and then we seek divine intervention and help.

Psalm 46:1 “God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.”

Psalm 121:1-2 “I lift up my eyes to the hills—where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.”

Truly, our help does come from the Lord whether we realize this or not. If it hadn't been for His intervention and blessing we wouldn't be as well off today as we are. We have been protected from evil and the evil one and we have been blessed with good things from God! GOD IS FOR US! He's not against us, HE IS FOR US!

God Is For Us – He gave up his Son for Us

31 What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? 33 Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

What has been your greatest gift in life? And what has been the greatest gift you've given to someone: your mate or perhaps your children?

What is God's greatest gift to mankind?

John 3:16 is probably one of the most famous verses in the Bible. We learned it in Sunday School or else VBS. I wonder if anyone is learning it today? GOD DID NOT SPARE HIS SON, BUT GAVE HIM UP FOR US ALL! Wow! Could God have given us anything better? I don't think so.

II Corinthians 8:9 “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.”

Jesus gave up His riches in heaven to become poor for us! Do you know of anyone else who would do that for you? Would you be willing to give up all your material things and all your riches for my sake? And would I do it for you? This is what Jesus did for us.

II Corinthians 5:21 “God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

Jesus had no sin, meaning He never sinned like we do. But God allowed Him to trade places with us on the cross. We deserved to be crucified for our sins. We deserved to make a sacrifice of our lives for our sins, but instead, God allowed Jesus to do that for us. He took our place on the cross and we took His place in the sense of being declared righteous before God.

Jesus is the one who did it or made it possible. We had nothing to do with it. It’s about Him and all because of Him!

God Is For Us – He Graciously Gives to Us

32 He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

Matthew 6:25-26 “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?”

God provides for the little sparrows/birds of the world. They don’t worry. God takes care of them but has He not taken even better care of us?

He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? We pretty much have it all. Why should we want for more?

God Is For Us – He Grants Victory Over All

37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

We have to overcome many obstacles in life: raising children, work, aging, health problems, etc.

What is it that you have been able to conquer because of Him? What about overcoming bad habits, youthfulness passions, etc.?

In 1846 former president John Quincy Adams suffered a stroke. Although he returned to Congress the following year, his health was clearly failing. Daniel

Webster described his last meeting with Adams: "Someone, a friend of his, came in and asked about his health. Adams answered, 'I inhabit a weak, frail, decayed tenement; battered by the winds and broken in upon by the storms, and from all I can learn, the landlord does not intend to repair.'"

Do you ever feel that way? That is, like the great physician is not going to repair your aging body? None of us can do what we once did. **BUT WE HAVE OVERCOME!** How? Because we look to the Lord and we keep on, keeping on as best we can. We seek the doctor's help and the great Physician's blessing. And we recognize that something better is coming. **WE SHALL OVERCOME!**

Keep Your Fork

There was a Christian lady who was diagnosed with a terminal illness and had been given three months to live. So as she was getting her things "in order," she contacted her pastor and had him come to her house to discuss certain aspects of her final wishes. She told him which songs she wanted sung at the service, what scriptures she would like read, and what outfit she wanted to be buried in. The woman also requested to be buried with her favorite Bible. Everything was in order and the pastor was preparing to leave when the woman suddenly remembered something very important to her.

"There's one more thing," she said excitedly.

"What's that?" came the pastor's reply.

"This is very important," the woman continued. "I want to be buried with a fork in my right hand."

The pastor stood looking at the woman, not knowing quite what to say. "That surprises you, doesn't it?" the woman asked.

"Well, to be honest, I'm puzzled by the request," said the pastor.

The woman explained, "In all my years of attending church socials and potluck dinners, I always remember that when the dishes of the main courses were being cleared, someone would inevitably lean over and say, "Keep your fork." It was my favorite part because I knew that something better was coming...like velvety chocolate cake or deep-dish apple pie. Something wonderful, and with substance! So, I just want people to see me there in that casket with a fork in my hand and I

want them to wonder, "What's with the fork?" Then I want you to tell them: "Keep your fork. The best is yet to come."

The pastor's eyes welled up with tears of joy as he hugged the woman good-bye. He knew this would be one of the last times he would see her before her death. But he also knew that the woman had a better grasp of Heaven than most Christians did.

She KNEW that something better was coming.

At her funeral people were walking by the woman's casket and they saw the pretty dress she was wearing, her favorite Bible, and the fork placed in her right hand.

Over and over, the pastor heard the question "What's with the fork?"

And over and over he smiled.

During his message, the pastor told the people of the conversation he had with the woman shortly before she died. He also told them about the fork and about what it symbolized to her. The pastor told the people how he could not stop thinking about the fork and told them that they probably would not be able to stop thinking about it either. He was right.

II Corinthians 4:16-18 "Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."

37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

Conclusion

God is for us. Don't ever doubt it. Don't doubt Him. Trust Him. Walk with Him. Trust and obey Him and you'll discover how much He is for you!

Michael W. Smith sings a song, which he co-wrote with Mia Fieldes and Seth Mosley, titled, "You Won't Let Go." I would like to read you the words of the song as we close today.

No shadow comes without the light making a way,

No raging storm can ever defy one word of faith,

My heart remains sure in the wind, sure in the waves

You are the anchor for my soul

You won't let go, You won't let go
No matter what may come I know, You won't let go
No valley low, changes the truth, So I'm not afraid,
You hold me close, You lead me through, light up the way
Neither life, neither death, The highest high, the deepest depth
Nothing can separate, Neither tears, neither trials
Certain as the sun will rise, Nothing can separate
Neither life, neither death, The highest high, the deepest depth
You are the anchor for my soul,
You won't let go! You won't let go!
No matter what may come I know, You won't let go
My heart remains sure in the wind, Sure in the waves, always

Bob Crowder