

## **Thankful for God's Love**

Romans 8:31-39

November 30th, 2025

*The omnipotent Creator God and Supreme Judge of All is radically for you and so the worst possible scenario you can conjure up in your imagination cannot separate you from His love in Christ Jesus, so be thankful.*

### **Introduction**

### **Six Reasons from Romans 8:31-39 for Christians to be Thankful:**

#### **God is on our Side (31)**

#### **God is the Gracious Giver of All Things (32)**

#### **Our "Father" is the Judge of All (33)**

#### **Our "Savior" is our Eternal Advocate (34)**

#### **Persecution Is Powerless to Separate Us from God's Love (35-37)**

#### **Nothing Can Separate Us from God's Love (38-39)**

### **Conclusion**

## **Thankful for God's Love**

Romans 8:31-39 Questions

1. What tempts you to be unthankful these days?
2. What are the "these things" that Paul is talking about in Romans 8:31?
3. How do our circumstances tempt us to believe that God is somehow not for us? How do we know that God is for us, regardless of our circumstances? (v.32)
4. Read verses 38 and 39 again. Consider the unchangeableness, intensity, and eternal nature of God's love for the believer. How should this impact our lives?
5. What are you tempted to worry about? How does worry betray a thankless heart? How can believing this text, specifically v. 33, turn you into a thankful person, to the glory of God?
6. How does the quote of Psalm 44:22 function in Paul's argument? Why is it important to know that Jesus never promised easy for His followers? How does thinking and believing rightly impact our daily outlook and our joy in Christ?
7. Have you ever been in a church or a group of people who believed they could lose their salvation? How does that belief affect a person's life (what kind of fruit does that belief produce)? How does this text contradict that notion?

**Thankful for God's Love**  
Romans 8:31-39

## Thankful for God's Love

### Romans 8:31-39

- **Well, good morning! Happy Thanksgiving!**
  - It is great to be with you all.
  - We can be praying for Pastor Dan and his family as they are taking some time off and enjoying some down time.
  - We can also be praying for:

## Pray

### Introduction

- ***On this Thanksgiving weekend, what kinds of things tempt you to be unthankful or ungrateful?***
  - *What challenges do you face in being a thankful person?*
- ***Are there certain people in your life that you cannot avoid that challenge you?***
  - *Or even attack you? Enemies?*
  - *People who make life difficult and so are stumbling blocks to having a thankful heart?*
  - *A spouse? A child? A co-worker? A family member?*
- ***Is it concern over politics and the direction of our country?***
  - *Or even local authorities who place restraints on your freedoms?*
- ***Maybe your challenge is your life circumstances?***
  - *Things haven't worked out as you would have liked?*
  - *If you could have written the script of your life story, you wouldn't have yourself here at this time, in this condition, in this place – doing whatever it is that you do?*
- ***Or maybe it's that your future looks bleak?***
  - *The aging process hasn't been kind to you? Your health isn't what you would like it to be?*
  - *There is one trial after another and you can never seem to get to a place where all is well?*
- ***Maybe your struggle is a financial situation?***
  - *It's a challenge to be thankful because you're having a hard time making ends meet?*
  - *You don't have enough money?*
  - *There are home repairs that need done and you can't afford them...?*

### Need

- **If you've been a bit *bogged down by life lately*, then let me *encourage* you this morning with *six reasons to be thankful* from Romans 8:31-39...**

### Context

- **So**, if you have your Bible with you this morning, *please* go ahead and turn to the book of Romans chapter 8, and we'll be looking at *verses 31 through 39* (page: \_\_\_\_\_ of the bible in front of you)...
- **We believe Paul wrote this around 57ad, so only 24 years or so after Jesus' death and resurrection.**
  - *James*, the apostle John's brother, was *murdered* by King Herod just 13 years prior.
  - And then in about another 13 years or so, Jerusalem will be *utterly destroyed* by the Roman Empire.
  - Emperor Nero is the *current ruler* of the empire and life for Christians, *at best*, is uncomfortable; *at worst*, they are being *fed to the lions* in various Roman colosseums...
- **So, Paul is writing to Christians in Rome and in verse 12 it says he wants to encourage them in their faith.**
  - One of the *main themes* of this letter is found in verses 16-17 of chapter 1 where Paul explains, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who

believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the *righteousness of God* is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, *‘The righteous shall live by faith...’*

- It was shameful to be a Christian in that day, much like it is shameful to be one in our day.
- *But Paul is not ashamed...*
- **And so, for the next four chapters or so, at least through 4:25, Paul drives home the need for justification through faith because of sin.**
  - And *all* have sinned. Thus, this gospel is the *only hope*, which is why Paul is not ashamed of it.
  - And then from ch. 5 up to our text this morning, Paul’s main focus is on the *results of justification by faith* (what this gospel accomplishes) and then also on how it relates to *present circumstances* and then the *believers future hope...*
- **Our text this morning, *then*, comes at the end of what is essentially 8 chapters of what we could call gospel glory.**
  - And so, we could say that Paul caps off this first section of his letter with a doxology, *a song of praise and thanksgiving if you will*, which is intended to *encourage* the saints, to encourage Christians, in their gospel hope...
- **Paul’s aim is *encouragement*.**
  - Webster’s defines the verb “to encourage” as “to inspire with courage, spirit, or hope: *hearten*.”
  - Paul’s aim is to inspire with hope – *to hearten his readers...*
- **And my aim this morning is the same.**
  - I want to *encourage* you. I want to *inspire* you with hope.
  - And in light of recent and future holidays, it is my conviction that *an encouraged heart* is a *thankful heart*.
  - So, I don’t think I am taking any *exegetical liberties* in telling you that our text presents “*Six Reasons for Christians to be Thankful.*”
- ***Romans 8:31* says, “What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? Who will bring a charge against God’s elect? God is the one who justifies; who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Just as it is written, “For Your sake we are being put to death all day long; We were considered as sheep to be slaughtered.” But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”**

### **God is on our Side (31)**

#### **Explanation**

- **And so, the first reason Christians have to be thankful from our text is that God is on Our Side.**
  - Romans 8:31 says, “*What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us?*”
  - After 8 chapters of gospel glory, Paul essentially says “*How can we express in words our response to all of these wonderful things...?*”
- **So, what are “these things” that he is talking about?**
  - Well, it’s at least what Paul just finished talking about in verses 26 through 30, which is essentially the Christian’s *predestination, calling, justification, sanctification and glorification*.
  - Which we could say is a *summary* of everything Paul has been talking about *since chapter 1*.
  - “*These things*” are the benefits of the gospel: *no condemnation* for those who are in Christ Jesus, the Spirit of Christ *dwells* in you, the *Hope* of a future bodily resurrection, the *Spirit of adoption* that cries out “*Abba, Father;*”
  - And then the reality that God works *all things* for good for those who love Him...

- **What shall we say to “these things?”**
  - What should our response be to all of these benefits in Christ?
  - If God is so **obviously** for us, in granting to us all **these things**, then who could possibly rise up against us and **successfully** oppose us...?
- **God, the maker of all things – the Creator of the Universe – the omnipotent One – is for us.**
  - Whose side is He on? He’s on the side of His people.
  - He’s on the side of those who are the recipients of all these gospel blessings that Paul has been talking about.
  - He’s on the side of Christians – followers of Jesus Christ.
  - Brothers and sisters, he is on **YOUR** side. God is **for us**...
- **No one or thing can successfully oppose the one for whom God is so obviously for.**
  - In Psalm 118:6 the psalmist exclaims, “The LORD is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?”
  - That’s the sentiment here...
- **Have you taken a moment lately to gaze at the stars?** – If so, have you considered that some of those sparkles are actually **entire galaxies** – you are looking at *eternity*.
  - Your Heavenly **Father** made all of that.
  - If the *omnipotent* ruler and creator of the entire cosmos is on *your side*, as is the case with **every true believer**, then no one or thing can *successfully prosper* against you...
  - The Apostle John reminds the believer of this truth in *First John 4:4*, “Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world...”
- **If you have enemies, they will not ultimately defeat you.**
  - *Ultimately*, they must contend with the Almighty and they will lose.
  - If the *government* turns against you, it will not *ultimately prosper*...
- **The ancient patristic father, Chrysostom, put it this way:** “Yet those that be against us, so far are they from thwarting us at all, that even without their will they become to us the causes of crowns, and procurers of countless blessings, in that God’s wisdom (turns) their plots unto our salvation and glory. See how really no one is against us...!”
- **For those who are in Christ, God works all things for their good – to conform them into His likeness.**
  - Our enemies intend it for evil; God intends it for our good (as Joseph said in Gen. 50:20).
  - So, when people *oppose us* – when our enemies rise up *against us* – it doesn’t matter who they are – they are actually, **unknowingly**, *working for our good*...
- **As Leon Morris puts it,** “Paul has been writing about a God who, in order to bring salvation to sinners, works all things for good, foreknows them, predestines them, calls them, justifies them, and glorifies them. It would be wrong to say anything less than that that God is “for” the sinners who are the objects of such love...”
- **So, brothers and sisters, be thankful: God is on Your Side...**

### **God is the Gracious Giver of All Things (32)**

#### **Explanation**

- **The second reason to be thankful**, then, is connected to the first and is essentially proof of the first, which is this: **God is the Gracious Giver of All Things.**
  - Verse 32 explains, “He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?”
- **How do we know God is for us?**
  - Well, here is the proof: *God did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all*...
- **This is likely an allusion to Abraham’s offering of Isaac.**
  - You remember that story.

- In Genesis 22 Abraham was going to sacrifice his only son Isaac at *the command of the LORD*, but in verse 12 the angel of the LORD said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.”
- God “spared” Isaac, *but he did not “spare” his own Son...*
- **God sacrificed his own son on our behalf – His special son, His unique son.**
  - The word here denotes “exclusive property.”
  - We are sons and daughters of God by *adoption*.
  - But Jesus is the Father’s “own” by *eternal relation*...
- **God the Father “gave this special One up” – he handed him over to be beaten and cursed and dishonored and tortured and killed.**
  - He did not “spare” him. That is, He did not “save him from loss or discomfort.”
  - As Isaiah 53:10 explains, “...it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for sin...”
  - *The LORD* is the acting agent there. And He did this “for us.”
  - He willingly did this – it was *His desire*. He “gave him up” on *our behalf*.
  - He did this *specifically* for Paul and all other Christians.
  - As Paul taught earlier in Romans 5:7ff, “For one will scarcely die for a righteous person – though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die – but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”
  - God *demonstrated* His love for us in this way...
- **Is there any other proof needed that God is for us?**
  - There is *nothing else* God could do *to prove* that He is on *our side*...
- **So, Paul goes on to say, essentially, that, since this is true** – since God has not withheld His most *prized or precious possession* – since He did not spare His *own Son*, “how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?”
  - And the *obvious* answer is that “He will.”
  - He *will* graciously give us *all things*.
- **He will – in the future – graciously give us all things.**
  - Or we could say, “bestow generously.”
  - God did not spare His own Son in our salvation; and so how will he withhold *any good thing* from us now...?
- **The “all things” phrase surely speaks to our salvation.**
  - We have received many benefits of that salvation *already*.
  - We have *already* been justified, as we’ll look at in a moment.
  - But we are awaiting our *glorification*.
  - At present, we don’t look like much.
  - Some of us are poor now; we struggle to make ends meet.
  - Some of us are at the low end of the *social* totem pole.
  - But God has not withheld **His best**, and so we can be assured that glorification *beyond our wildest dreams* is coming.
  - *Glorification and all the benefits of our future inheritance*: the new heavens and the new earth, exaltation, vindication.
  - The God who has proven *in Christ and in His gospel* that He is “for us” is **obviously generous**.
  - Christ’s death “for us” is **proof** that we will receive all the benefits of our salvation: *now and forevermore*.
  - He will not withhold from us *any* “good” thing...
- **So, brothers and sisters, be thankful: the God who is “for us” is the Gracious Giver of All Things...**

### Explanation

- The *third reason* to give thanks in our text is that this God is ***Our Father***, who just so happens to also be ***The Judge of All***.
  - Verse 33 goes on to say, “Who will bring a charge against God’s elect? God is the one who justifies...”
- The language here is what is called “judicial” language.
  - These are ***court of law*** terms.
  - The word “charge” here in the ESV means to “*accuse*” in the legal sense...
- ***Satan is our accuser.***
  - Sometimes our ***own souls*** *accuse* us.
  - ***And enemies of Christ*** might *accuse* us. But no *charge* will stick. Why?
  - Because *God* is the one who ***justifies***.
  - Which is *another legal term* and essentially means “to pronounce a verdict that someone is in full accordance with the requirements of the law (of God)...”
- ***God’s elect, that is to say, God’s chosen people*** – that’s what this word *elect* means – *it is very specific* – *God’s chosen people* – those who, in the context of Romans 8 – those who have been *predestined and called* – have also been “***justified***” –
  - They have been declared “*not guilty*” in the Courts of Heaven...
- ***So, Satan can accuse, but he’s wasting his time.***
  - As Revelation 12:10 explains, “And 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 brothers ***has been thrown down***, who accuses them day and night before our God...””
- ***People may sneer at us for being Christians and for following Christ, they may malign us and seek to find fault in us.***
  - They may say that we are *bigots and intolerant* because we don’t conform to societies *new morality*;
  - they may not *allow us* to have a voice in the public square because of this – they may ***accuse*** us, *but there is no need for us to worry – God is for us.*
  - And He is the ***only Judge***...!
- ***And so, in an almost humorous but seriously encouraging turn of events, our enemies are actually bringing their charges to “our Father.”***
  - And He, through faith in Christ, has already declared us “*righteous*”- *innocent*.
  - He has already ***credited*** Christ’s righteousness to our account.
  - ***We are untouchable.***
  - As Isaiah 50:8 says, ““He who vindicates me is near. *Who will contend with me?* Let us stand up together. *Who is my adversary?* Let him come near to me. *Behold, the Lord God helps me; who will declare me guilty?* Behold, all of them will wear out like a garment; *the moth will eat them up...*””
- ***Other people may call you a hypocrite.***
  - They may even deem you *a heretic*. They may have written you off.
  - But their *opinion* doesn’t matter. Their *charge* is inconsequential.
  - The powerful God of the universe, ***Our Father***, the one who is *for us* – has rendered His verdict, *and no one or thing can change it.*
  - It’s laughable to even think it...He who did not spare His own Son. Our Father.
  - *Not even our worst enemies* – to include *Satan and the World*...

### Illustration/Application

- **Heath Lambert writes**, “This truth is revolutionary for worriers who, by definition, do not believe that all will be well. Justification destroys the logic of worry, reminding us that the God who gave us his Son will give us everything else along with him (R 8:32) (299).”
  - Worry is *antithetical* to thanksgiving because it consumes us with the “*what ifs*” of life and so takes our focus off of the “*what is*,” which includes all *the blessings* we have in Christ...
- **FF Bruce summarizes this particular blessing well:**
  - “When God enters into judgment, the outlook for the opposing party is bleak (Rom. 3:4); but if God takes the side of the defendant, no amount of evidence for the prosecution can procure an adverse verdict...”
- So, brothers and sisters, *be thankful: the Judge of All is Your Father...*

### **Our “Savior” is our Eternal Advocate (34)**

#### Explanation

- **Our day just keeps getting better, doesn’t it...?**
  - The fourth reason, then, to be thankful is this: **Our “Savior” is our Eternal Advocate.**
  - Verse 34 says, “Who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.”
- **Again, this is legal language.**
  - The word “condemn” means to “pronounce a sentence after determination of guilt...”
- **Can anyone “condemn” us? Can anyone pronounce a sentence?**
  - Even if they could somehow get past *our Father’s justification* (which they can’t), they would still need to deal with this fact (truth): **Christ has already received and served our punitive sentence.**
  - So, as Paul states earlier in Ch. 8, verse 1, “There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus...”
- **And the proof that Christ served our punitive sentence is that He was raised from the dead and is now seated at the right hand of God.**
  - He holds this *glorious place of honor* in the heavenly realm.
  - If our sentence were somehow left *unpaid*, then Christ our Savior would not have received this *highest of honors*.
  - But the reality is, *that at this very moment*, He holds this *highly exalted position...*
- **And from this highly exalted position, He intercedes on our behalf.**
  - He *represents* us in the Courts of Heaven, so to speak. He is our *advocate*.
  - He approaches the Father *on our behalf*.
  - Hebrews 7:25b explains that “he always lives to make intercession” for us.
  - First John 2:1 explains, how “we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous...”
- **FF Bruce’s adds to his earlier thoughts and says**, “The prosecutor may not venture to appear, but counsel for the defense is present and active: the Christ who died and rose again is enthroned at God’s right hand, making prevalent intercession for his people...”
- **And what is Jesus pleading?**
  - Well, *surely*, in keeping with this *court scene*, He is pleading our innocence based upon *our faith in His person and work*.
  - But through the Holy Spirit, He is also our *Helper*; working to *maintain us* in the faith.
  - *Strengthening/Causing us to persevere.*
  - The great theologian, Louis Berkhof, writes, “It is a consoling thought that Christ is praying for us, even when we are negligent in our prayer life; that He is presenting to the Father those spiritual needs which were not present to our minds and which we often neglect to include in our prayers; and that He prays for our protection against the dangers of which we are not even conscious, and against the enemies which threaten us, though we do not notice it. He is praying that our faith may not cease, and that we may come out victoriously in the end (Grudem, 627).”



- If God is *for us* in this way, sending His Son, justifying us, giving us an advocate, then **no one or thing** can stand against us.
  - In every way that truly matters, **in Christ**, in light of eternity, *we win...*
- And so, brothers and sisters, *be thankful. Our Savior is Our Eternal Advocate...*

### **Persecution Is Powerless to Separate Us from God's Love (35-37)**

#### **Explanation**

- The *fifth* reason to be thankful is that **Persecution is Powerless to Separate Us from God's Love.**
  - Verse 35 begins with another rhetorical question, "Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Just as it is written, 'For Your sake we are being put to death all day long; We were considered as sheep to be slaughtered.' But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us."
- Who can **isolate** us from this **demonstrated love of Christ**, which is also the love of God?
  - Their love is one and the same.
  - So First John 4:9 explains, "In this **the love of God** was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him..."
  - Who can separate us from this love? No one. No thing...
- **One definition of this love is that it is** "especially characterized by a willing forfeiture of rights or privileges in another person's behalf."
  - Christ gave His life **for us/on our behalf.**
  - There is *no* greater love than this. Who, then, or what, can separate us – can isolate us – from this love...?
- **And then Paul gives us a list of possibilities.**
  - Most of which, he had already *experienced*, as First Corinthians 4:11ff catalogues, "To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are poorly dressed and buffeted and homeless, and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we entreat. We have become, and are still, like the scum of the world..."
- **Can these kinds of things** separate us from Christ's/God's love?
  - Can these things tempt us to the breaking point so that we would **recant** our faith?
  - Can these things somehow **rob** us of our salvation...?
- **Remember now, that the early church was not a place to go to for health, wealth and prosperity.**
  - Being a Christian in the first century was **hard**.
  - It resulted in all of these things Paul listed, or at least all of these things were *possibilities*.
  - **Stephen** was stoned to death.
  - And James, the brother of John, had already been killed by King Herod by this point.
  - So, can these hardships put the Christian in a situation where they might lose all of the benefits we've just talked about?
- **Can tribulation?** Or an oppressive state of physical, mental, social, or economic adversity? Can distress?
  - Or how about being under the authority of oppressive political regimes?
  - Can persecution? Specifically, persecution for being a Christ follower?
  - Can famine? Can being in a situation where you don't have enough food put you in such a desperate situation where you'd recant your faith?
    - Could that situation separate you from the love of Christ?
  - How about nakedness? A situation of destitution? Where you have no money; no job?
  - How about danger? Threats of violence from others or from the environment?
  - Or maybe the sword? Violence? Carjackings or drive by shootings?
  - Threats of death by an enemy? Can these things cause you to lose God's love...?
- **And then Paul quotes Psalm 44:22**, "Yet for your sake we are killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered."

- That passage is one where a *righteous remnant* of God's people have been faithful, *yet they are suffering immensely*.
- And so, Paul quotes this as *proof*, essentially, that all the things that he just listed and that he, himself, has experienced, **are part of the lot in this life for God's true people.**
- **Jesus never promised easy**, "In the world you will have tribulation." is what He said.
- *The Christian life is no picnic...*
- **It would seem, then, that the Christians in Paul's day were really concerned about this.**
  - Their Christian experience wasn't "health, wealth and prosperity."
  - They looked around at their circumstances and didn't "*feel*" blessed.
  - *Did this mean that they weren't the Lord's?*
  - *Had they lost their salvation? Did God still love them?*
  - Paul assures them that this is the *norm* for God's people in this life...
- **And then he concludes in verse 37, "No...in all these things we are more than **conquerors** through him who loved us."**
  - And so, the answer is "no."
  - "No" these things **cannot** separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus.
  - In fact, in all of these things – Christians are *more than conquerors* – literally, something like "completely victorious."
  - Remember Romans 8:28, "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose."
  - **For God's elect**, for those whom God has chosen, this list of *hardships and difficulties* – worst nightmare scenarios – can **NOT** isolate the believer from *Christ's love*...
- **The Creator of the universe is for them.**
  - And not only this, **the worst** that can be thrown at His elect only works toward making them **stronger in Christ.**
  - That is God's *promise*.
  - *We can face evil and danger and tough situations and genuinely say, "do your worst."*
  - We, **the Saints**, truly are "completely victorious..."
- **I had a shirt growing up from a wrestling camp that said on the back "What does not kill you makes you stronger."**
  - Which is actually a pagan/*Friedrich Nietzsche* saying – I thought it was *tough*, though.
  - But the Christian slogan is even better "Everything Makes You Stronger..."
- **And we will endure these trials because Christ lives to intercede for us.**
  - He is *actively* involved in the **perseverance of the saints.**
  - And this passage is *all about the perseverance of the saints*...
- **You see, some might come to this text and say, "Well, yes, but the believer can, themselves, turn away from Christ's love. These other things can't separate them from Christ's love, but they (themselves) can."**
  - **But that is to grossly misread this text!**
  - *Tribulation and distress and persecution and famine and nakedness* are mentioned here specifically because it is "*these things,*" and things like them, that may **tempt** a person to turn away from Christ.
  - But Paul says that it *cannot* happen.
  - The *true believer*, in all of "these things," is **completely victorious through the one who loved them**...
- **Sometimes our worst enemy is our own self, right?**
  - But even *we* cannot prevail against God's plans *for us*.
  - That has to be how this text is read, otherwise Paul's words **don't mean anything.**
  - Christ's love for us – God's love for us is **so powerful** that *nothing* – to include our own sinful hearts and **weak faith** – can separate us from it...

- **I don't know about you, but I am so thankful for this.**
  - No *enemy or adversary* can bring a charge against me that will **overturn** my Father's verdict.
  - And no situation or circumstance that I might ever face – political assassinations, the lure of a hedonistic society, financial pressure, unimaginable trials, my *own poor performance* as a Christian –
  - **nothing**, could somehow cause me to turn away from Christ and so separate me from His love.
  - If God's love for me is contingent upon my good behavior I'm sunk.
  - If it is all up to me to keep myself in the flock – I'm done. But, *Praise the Lord*, it's not.
- **And so, brothers and sisters, be thankful: Persecution Is Powerless to Separate You from God's Love...**

### ~~Nothing Can Separate Us from God's Love (38-39)~~

#### Explanation

- **In fact, No Possible Conceivable Threat Can Separate Us from God's Love.**
  - And so, the *last reason* to be thankful is that: **Nothing Can Separate Us from God's Love.**
  - Verses 38 and 39 say, "For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."
- **Paul is convinced, he is absolutely certain, from Christ's revelation and his own preservation through the various trials that he has just listed,**
  - that **nothing** can separate the Christian from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord...
- **And to drive home his point**, he lists all of these various categories that end up covering every possible scenario that *might somehow* cause the believer to lose their salvation and so *separate* them from God's love:
- **Neither life nor death.**
  - Nothing that can happen in this life: *temptations, trials, and so forth*; and not even death: *tragic death or natural death* can threaten the believer's security – *can separate them from God's love...*
- **Nor angels nor rulers.**
  - The powers that be, whether *spiritual or physical*. No ranks of spirits – no *demons*.
- **Nor things present nor things to come.**
  - Not anything relating to your *present circumstances* nor anything in your *future...*
- **Nor powers.**
  - Probably these refer to *miraculous powers*.
  - But perhaps also powers of nature: *natural disasters and cataclysmic events*.
- **Nor height nor depth** – No *conceivable cosmic* forces.
- **And then the catch all: nor anything else in all creation.**
  - This is for those of us who tend to be a little on the *particular* side of things – those who might want to read the fine print and find the caveat – *the lawyers among us*.
  - Douglas Moo writes, "Lest a **picky reader** think that Paul has omitted something that could threaten the believer's security in Christ, Paul concludes with the comprehensive "any created thing."
- **The most formidable foe that you could possibly imagine; and then not even imagine.**
  - Your worst nightmare; and then every *possible* worst nightmare that you might *never* conceive of – is **powerless** to separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord...!
- **God's love, like Himself, is immutable. It is unchangeable.**
  - His love for us is not a feeling that comes and goes: it is a *decision that reflects His eternal stance/position toward us*.
  - That action, amazingly so, *is grounded in eternity past*.
  - It's **rooted** in His election of the saints and **proven** by the person and work of his **OWN** son.

- As AW Pink writes, “The Divine love is subject to no vicissitudes. Divine love is ‘strong as death...many waters cannot quench it’. ***Nothing*** can separate from it (R. 8:35-39) (80)...”
- **And so, brothers and sisters, be thankful: nothing can separate you from God’s love...**

### **Conclusion**

- **God is for us.**
  - The “not guilty” verdict rendered on behalf of Christ’s person and work is *guaranteed* and will *never* be overturn.
  - No motion to appeal will ever be *accepted or entertained*.
  - We are *secure* in this salvation from now *and for all eternity*.
- **All who rise up against us shall ultimately fall and not prosper.**
  - We are *promised* victory over this world and over every ***conceivable and inconceivable*** force.
  - And the *grounds* for this assurance is **God’s love for us**.
  - God is ***for us*** because God loved us *before the foundation of the world...*
- **There are not many guarantees in life, but God’s love and election are sure.**
  - They are ***immovable***. This needs to be the *lens* by which we view all of life.
  - If you are in Christ, then this is your ***identity*** – this is *who* you are.
  - You are not an Irishman or a Scot, you are not a scholar or a cowboy – *you are one who is loved by the Creator God*.
- **And so, no matter your circumstances, this is *THE* thing that you will *ALWAYS* have *to be thankful for*.**
  - *The omnipotent Creator God and Supreme Judge of All is **radically** for you...*
- **Often times we struggle because we look at what we don’t have *rather than what we do have*.**
  - But according to this text, we have ***everything***.
- Therefore, we ***must*** be a **thankful** people, because we **ALWAYS** have God’s love to *be thankful for...*
  - *Encourage one another in this truth...excel still more.*

### **Pray**