

Eternal Security

“In the last twelve verses of Romans 8 the apostle soars to sublime heights unequalled elsewhere in the New Testament. Having described the chief privileges of justified believers—peace with God (5:1–11), union with Christ (5:12–6:23), freedom from the law (7:1–25) and life in the Spirit (8:1–27)—his great Spirit-directed mind now sweeps over the whole plan and purpose of God from a past eternity to an eternity still to come, from the divine foreknowledge and predestination to the divine love from which absolutely nothing will ever be able to separate us. – (Stott)

I. God's Amazing Providential Care for Us

A. All things work together for good.

“And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.” [v. 28]

1. “for good” - the outcome, not the trials themselves.
 - a) Very often the trials themselves are not good. In fact, they may be very grievous and evil.
 - b) Good is not how we define it today: short for general success, health, financial security or personal happiness
 - c) The good Paul is talking about is answered in the next verse: “to be conformed to the image of his Son.”

“We are not necessarily doubting that God will do the best for us. We are wondering how painful the best will be.” - C. S. Lewis

2. According to his purpose

- a) Those who love him, in whose life he works, have been called by him *according to his purpose - and when he works good in our lives, that work is according to his purpose.*

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.” [Isa 55:8–9]

- b) God is not blessing blindly, merely for the sake of blessing. More than that, he is working in us toward his ultimate purpose: our total union with Jesus.

The Weaving - Corrie Ten Boom

My life is but a weaving
Between my God and me. I cannot choose the colors
He weaveth steadily.

Off' times He weaveth sorrow;
And I in foolish pride

Forget He sees the upper
And I the underside.

Not 'til the loom is silent
And the shuttles cease to fly
Will God unroll the canvas
And reveal the reason why.

The dark threads are as needful
In the weaver's skillful hand
As the threads of gold and silver
In the pattern He has planned

He knows, He loves, He cares;
Nothing this truth can dim.
He gives the very best to those
Who leave the choice to Him.



3. Who does this apply to? Believers
 - a) Those who love God; those called of God - those who have trusted in Christ for their salvation and have been given the gift of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

“Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.” [1 Pet 1:8–9]

- b) The unbeliever cannot claim this truth for his trials.

“And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.” [Heb 11:6]

“We live in a topsy-turvy world in which the tragedy for the Christian is a blessing for eternity, but the blessing for the pagan is a tragedy for eternity. God works all things together for good for those who love him.” – (Sproul)

4. We know – the final thing to notice about vs. 28 is how Paul begins it with a bold declaration, an assertion of Christian knowledge about God's
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providential care. Paul does not expect what he is teaching here to come as a surprise to his hearers; he expects them to know and understand it as a basic part of their faith. Not only can we take all this for granted; we are supposed to.

B. The Golden Chain of Redemption

“For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.” [vs. 29-30]

1. God “foreknew” believers. God’s foreknowledge means he knew precisely when and where he would save us before he saved us. He also knew how he would get us to look like the image of his Son through the God-ordained “all things” which come into our lives.

“Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.” [Jer 1:5]

“According to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you.” [1 Pet 1:2]

2. God “predestined” believers.

“There is a destiny for certain people that God, from the foundation of the world, has established. He has fixed it; He has determined it according to the sovereign good pleasure of his will.” (Sproul)

“Because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions.[...]For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast.”- [Eph 2:4-9,]

3. God “called” believers. God is the one who called believers out of the masses of humanity to salvation. He invited us.

“But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and who called me by his grace,” [Gal 1:15]

4. God “justified” believers. God judicially declared the believer righteous at the same moment he called the believer to salvation. Just as we cannot declare ourselves righteous before God, neither can we call ourselves to justification.

5. God “glorified” believers. The word “glory” is the word for honor or exaltation. When it is used in regard to eternity, it refers to the future destiny of a believer in which he will have eternal honor and exaltation.

“The sense that in this universe we are treated as strangers, the longing to be acknowledged, to meet with some response, to bridge some chasm that yawns between us and reality, is part of our inconsolable secret. And surely, from this point of view, the promise of glory, in the sense described, becomes highly relevant to our deep desire. For glory means good report with God, acceptance by God, response, acknowledgment, and welcome into the heart of things. The door on which we have been knocking all our lives will open at last.” — C.S. Lewis, *The Weight of Glory*

II. Ok, but what about....?

A. “What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?” [v. 31]

Q: What about all these people around me who are more powerful than me and do not like me?

A: The greatest enemy in this life is absolutely nothing compared to the All Knowing, All Powerful, Eternal, Almighty God.

“So we can confidently say, “The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?” [Heb 13:6]

B. “He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?” [v. 32]

Q: Will God really be here for me; will he provide my needs?

A: if God did the hardest thing in the world, giving up his own Son, and if he did that as a gift for us, then it will be easy and logical for him to give us everything we need in Christ.

C. “Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.” [vs. 33-34]

Q: I continue to sin and I’m afraid I will still be punished for my sin!

A: No one can bring a charge against someone who has been pronounced righteous by God, the Supreme Judge of the Universe.

“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” [Rom 8:1]

“Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.” [Heb 7:25]

D. “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”” [vs. 35-36]

Q: But what about.....everything!?! If in our present trials, the world seems to be on the winning side, is it not possible that someone will one day separate us from the love of God?

A: No! God’s love surpasses “anything else in all creation”

E. “No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” [vs. 37-39]

1. “I am sure” - just like in vs. 28 with his “we know”, this “I am sure” is an assertion of Christian knowledge about God’s providential care
2. “more than conquerors” - to win a most glorious victory. It suggests a lopsided victory in which the enemy or opponent is completely routed.
3. “through him that loved us” - The victory is not ours but his. The love of God is made personal and precious to us in the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is “the love of God” displayed “in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Vs. 39)
4. Items mentioned are the ones we tend to dread – life, death, supernatural powers, present trials, fears of what the future may hold. To make sure everything is covered, Paul ends with “nor any other creature” to cover anything that might have been missed in the list.

“Our confidence is not in our love for him, which is frail, fickle and faltering, but in his love for us, which is steadfast, faithful and persevering. The doctrine of “the perseverance of the saints” needs to be re-named. It is the doctrine of the perseverance of God with the saints.” (Stott)

Romans 8- Move from Condemned to Convinced

Radically condensed from the Spoken Gospel – “If your if is dependent on the I”

If I am good enough, if I pray enough, if I love my neighbors enough, if I don't sin so much, if I read scripture enough, if I love God enough, if, if, if I.....

If your if, is dependent on your I, then no, your assurance of salvation will always be denied.

If we base our salvation on self-evaluation all we ever get is condemnation.

If your if, is based on your I, your I can never measure up to the standard of the God on High.

There is always condemnation of those whose if, is I.

But there is good news, there is gospel free to all, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ. So, let's make a new condition. Let's ask a new if: If Christ...if Christ was good enough, if Christ died for his church, If Christ rose to give us his worth, if Christ performed every good work, if Christ loved so much, if Christ died the death we should have died, If Christ beat the grave to raise us to life. If, if, if.

Our if is now no longer dependent on something we supplied. The if of our salvation is dependent on the one who loves us so much that he was crucified. All my ifs Christ answered on the cross.

One final if: If God is for us, who can be against us? (Spoken Gospel)

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