

“I am persuaded”

# Some think God is against us

- We know He is fervently for us
- Ro.8:38 = what God's love has done for Christians... [*I am persuaded*]

I. God is for us, 31

## 31: “all these things” (28-30)

If God is for us, we need fear no enemy

- 1 Sm.17:45-50
- In this court, God is both Judge and Defender, 8:1
  - Gn.42:36-38... Jacob's view...

I. God is for us, 31

II. God gave His Son for us, 32

## 32a

- Abraham – Isaac, Gn.22
- Pharaoh's most severe plague – firstborn, Ex.12
- Harlot would give away her son instead of killing him, 1 K.3

Never doubt the love of God

## 32b

- Who 'gave Him up to die...'?

“Not Judas, for money, not Pilate, for fear,  
not Jews, for envy, but the Father  
for love”

## 32c

God already gave  
greatest gift while  
we were enemies

God will not  
withhold anything  
we need

I. God is for us, 31

II. God gave His Son for us, 32

III. God justifies us, 33-34



# Who can charge us?

- Answer: No one
- Charge: law term

This does not mean  
that no one  
accuses  
(Paul: Ac.23:28-29)

Our true Judge  
determines  
guilt or innocence  
(as with Paul). 2 Tim.4

# Ro.8:34, *A Friend in high places...*

## Zechariah 3:1-5

- False Charge: 'no mention of Jesus in OT'
- Joshua: *JHVH is salvation* (Savior). [Vine, 333]
  - Mt.1:1,18,21, 'Jesus' (= '*Joshua*'). Hb.4:8
  - LXX: 'Jesus' (Joshua is a 'type')
- High priest: Joshua – a stick pulled from fire; filthy. Hag.2:14
  - Can a filthy high priest bring forgiveness?
  - Pilate, Mt.27:24

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II. God gave His Son for us, 32

III. God justifies us, 33-34

IV. God loves us, 35,39

## Wrong conclusion:

- “Hard times show that God abandoned us”
- Mt.27:39-43
  - Jews were wrong despite appearances to the contrary
  - God proved love for His Son by overturning their sinful verdict – resurrection (Ro.8:34-35)

# What can separate us from His love? (35)

- Tribulation: pressure of affliction
- Distress: hemmed in by circumstances; anguish
- Persecution: trouble / hardship because of our faith.
- Famine: hunger. Hb.11:37-38, destitute
- Nakedness: destitute. Ja.2:15
- Peril: dangers. 2 Co.11:26
- Sword: violence, violent death. Ac.12:2

## 36 (Ps.44:22)

- Society: 'Christians are fit only for slaughter'
- 'How can God say He loves me?' . . .
  - God's Son
  - Earthly problems are not incompatible with the love of God

## More than conquerors (37)

- Paul's shout of victory – in adversity
  - Enemy's opposition helps him / us become more Christlike

When you have nothing left but God,  
then you become aware that  
God is enough

# The most savage enemy cannot harm us (38-39)

- Death: if His love conquers death, what is left to fear? 34.
  - Christ lives / sees benefits of His death in us
- Life: may refer to . . .
  - release from torture . . .
  - trials of daily life



# The most savage enemy cannot harm us (38-39)

- Angels: would a good angel separate someone from the love of Christ?
  - A false one can (1 K.13). Gal.1:8
- Principalities and powers:
  1. Principalities (rule). Lk.12:11
  2. Powers – includes demons. Ep.6:12

# The most savage enemy cannot harm us (38-39)

- Things present: current problems / troubles
  - Present times were difficult even for Paul.  
Ph.1:23
- Things to come:
  - No need for Christians to worry about future's unknown possibilities...

‘We don’t know what the future holds,  
but we know who holds the future.’

# The most savage enemy cannot harm us (38-39)

- Height:
  - Peak of prosperity and honor?
  - Unlimited spaces above?
- Depth:
  - Overwhelming adversity and disgrace?
- Any other created thing:
  - In case something is omitted...

# The most savage enemy cannot harm us

The only thing  
that can remove  
us from God is  
sin.

The only one  
who can give it  
permission to  
harm us is self.

## 36 (Ps.44:22)

- “Every two hours a ‘Christian’ is martyred in Jesus’ name.”
  - God’s Son died horrible death to save us.
  - Ac.5:41 . . . Ac.7
  - No one can show that earthly pain is incompatible with the love of God.

“It is a good sign that our troubles are sanctified to us when they turn our hearts against sin, and not against God” – John Flavel

# 37

- Affliction, distress... in spite of it all, even because of these things, we are more than conquerors!
- Paul's enemies became his servants

## 38-39

- None of these things . . .
  - 1: began with no condemnation
  - 39: ends with no separation
- Paul does not deny that one thing in universe may separate us from His love – our own stubborn will (Ro.8:13)