

Five Unshakable Promises

Romans 8:31 - 36

³¹What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³²He 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? ³³Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who 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. ³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ³⁶As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered."

Christians can draw great strength from the verses in today's Bible lesson. David Jeremiah concluded that these verses offer the Christian five unshakable promises. Those promises are . . .

- 1. For the believer, there is no humiliation. We can do nothing to ruin the work of God in our lives. No one can rob us of our salvation.**
- 2. For the believer, there is no deprivation. God held back nothing to accomplish our salvation. He even offered up His own Son. If God gave up His own Son, then there is nothing that He will fail or refuse to do for His people. He provides for all of our needs.**
- 3. For the believer, there is no accusation. Our sins have been forgiven in and through Christ. No one can bring them up against us ever again. Those sins have been thoroughly dealt with at Calvary. Satan's accusations against us hold no merit. Consider the truth of Psalm 103:9-12.**
- 4. For the believer, there is no condemnation. Christ has become our shield and defender. He was our sacrifice and atonement at the cross. The sins we committed were carried by His shoulders to the cross. We stand innocent in and through Christ.**
- 5. For the believer, there is no separation. No trial, difficulty or circumstance can separate and isolate us from the Lord. Once our relationship with the Lord was repaired in Christ, it can never be destroyed again. Nothing on earth can divide us from our Lord.**

We could argue that these promises are the essence of the gospel or at the core of all the good news that God has for His people. These verses are personal and universal. The promises are personal in the sense that they apply to us individually. The promises are universal in the sense

that they apply to ALL of God's people, no matter what their situation or station in life may be. In today's Bible lesson, Paul framed the truth of God for us in a series of questions with obvious answers. In many Bibles, verse 31 has the question "If God is for us, who can be against us?" The word "if" does not suggest merely a possibility. It means "because God is for us." "If" is used as a way of declaring a completed reality. John MacArthur wrote, *"the obvious implication is that if anyone were able to rob us of salvation they would have to be greater than God Himself, because He is both the giver and the sustainer of salvation."*

The assurances found in today's five unshakable promises teach us that God is greater than those who dislike us, threaten us, challenge us, or those who intend evil for us. He triumphs above and beyond all of those people or situations. Our confidence, now and always, is in God. God sustains and keeps what He saves and redeems.

Paul reminds us in verses 33-34 that God again is the justifier. God's ability to justify is much better than anyone's ability to condemn us. We build our faith and lives upon God's justification and not the condemnations of others. One name for God in Scripture is Shepherd. The Lord is our Good Shepherd. As our Shepherd, He does not walk us into condemnation or contempt. He carries us to the cross and sustains us by His grace.

Applications . . .

1. Give thanks for God's promises. Claim one or more today for a trial or situation you may be facing.
2. Memorize verse 31. Practice reciting and writing this verse until you have mastered it.
3. Recall a time when you faced accusations or condemnation from someone else. How did you respond? The next time you face such a thing, recall the truth of today's Bible lesson.
4. Ask God to give you opportunities to encourage your fellow Christians with the truth of today's Bible lesson. Ask God to use you to teach today's truth to your fellow believers when they face struggling times.
5. Pray the truth of today's Bible lesson for someone you know who is in need and facing a painful trial.

