

The Promise of the Gospel: Victory in Jesus
(Rom 8.31-39; 03-29-20am)

Hope: Confident certainty & expectation of something that is not yet ours, but it will be ours.
(see Heb 11.1 for biblical definition of faith. Faith and hope are two sides of the same coin of assurance.)

Central thought: When God is for you, nothing can defeat you. (31)

I. God has purchased you – nothing can defeat you (31-32)

A. This truth is a shield against all spiritual challenges (31) (cf. Rev 12.7-12a)

Remember, Satan's demise has been God's promise since the curse in the Garden (Gen 3.15).
Revelation 12 gives us a prophetic account of God fulfilling that promise (Rev 12.7-11)

Though Satan may accuse you, your defense is strong and sure. Consider these defenses:

God will not condemn you, because He purchased your soul with the blood of His Son (1)

God sent His Son to demolish your greatest accuser – your own sin –

And in doing so, the requirement of the law has been fulfilled for you (3-4)

God is preserving your soul through the ongoing work of His Holy Spirit (11)

God has adopted you, and He will not return you to a life of slavery or fear (15)

God has promised you a future glory (17-18)

“Future glory”: a resurrected, “glorified” body, that is fully transformed into the likeness of Christ

God is working every situation for your eternal good – no accusation can stand (28)

B. Our security is a made certain through the gospel (32)

1. Purchased by the blood of Jesus

2. Provided as a gift from God

3. Protected by the kindness of God's enduring grace (cf. Matt 6.33)

II. God has pardoned you – no one can condemn you (33-34)

A. God is Judge (33-34a)

When God justifies, all charges are dismissed – as if they never occurred

Christ's sacrifice was sufficient – once for all (cf. Heb 7.27; 9.26; 10.10)

B. Jesus is your Advocate (34b)

1. Christ died for sinners (that's all of us!) – His death advocates for forgiveness of all who repent/trust

2. Christ resurrected from dead – His resurrection advocates for victory over death for all who repent/trust

3. Christ lives at the right hand of God, triumphant & glorious – advocating for future glory for all who repent/trust

Jn 17.12: Jesus guards your eternal assurance;

Jn 17.15: Jesus intercedes for your present life

4. Christ continues to plead for the souls of believers (Heb 7.25) –

He advocates for the empowerment & the endurance of all who repent/trust

III. God is protecting you – nothing can separate you from His love (35-39)

A. Nothing can conquer you because God’s love keeps you (35-37)

Vs 35: In tribulation, we experience peace in the Overcomer (Jn 16.33)

In distress, we find rest for our souls (Matt 11.28-29)

In persecution, we glimpse the portals of God’s heavenly kingdom (Matt 5.10)

In famine, we are fed by the bread of life (Jn 6.35)

In nakedness, we are clothed by robes made white by blood of the lamb (Rev 7.14)

In peril, the Shepherd guides us thru the valley of the death’s shadows (Ps 23.4)

In sword, Christ is our shield and defender (Rev 19.15)

V36 indicates that the same normal threats that confront the world will also impact the godliest Christians.

V36: In death, we trust the One who is *the resurrection and the life* (Jn 11.25)

In slaughter, we die knowing we have not been forsaken/forgotten (1 Pet 4.19)

B. Nothing can separate you from God’s love (38-39) (cf. Jn 3.16; Rom 5.8; 1 Jn 4.9-10)
(vs38-39 answer the question posed in v35)

Five concluding statements: depending on your place before God – these either assure you or invite you

1. “*God is for [you]*” (31-32) testifies to the salvation of the elect identified in v29-30
– so, if you have trusted in Christ, these promises are for you

2. No matter who or what attacks your faith, you do not fight alone (33-34)

3. You can expect battles and battle scars; maybe death (35-36)

4. The interceding work of Christ is sufficient to guard your soul from destruction (34-37)

5. God will never surrender what He has claimed for Himself (38-39)