



God is For Us

Paul seemed to be a fearless man. Nothing fazes him. Think about some of the things that he went through in his life – shipwrecks, imprisonment, conflicts, rejections, persecution, hardships etc. Why was he able to live a life like that? What was it about Paul that enables him to do that? It could be that he was specially endowed with gifts and courage from God that no one else has. Today, we come across a passage that gives us a hint to the answer.

We are continuing our series on Unearthing Hope. We learned that ultimately, our hope is not based on anything here on Earth, but rather our hope is always on God himself and what he has done for us. It is an external hope in an unchanging, loving, merciful, and gracious God. Let us see how this hope spurs Paul on in his life, and how that can be the same case for us.

Launch

- 1) Why do you think some people cope with adversity better than others? What is it that helps them?

GOD IS FOR US

Read Romans 8:31-34

- 2) What are the “these things” that Paul is referring to? (v31)
- 3) What answer is Paul expecting to his question, “who can be against us”?
 - a. What kind of God does Paul have in mind? Take the time to read Job 38:1-30, Isa 6:1-4. What kind of God do those passages give us?
- 4) What point is Paul making with his question in v32?
 - a. In what way did God not spare his own Son? (cf. 3:25-26)

- 5) What are some of the charges that are usually brought against those whom God has chosen? (v33)
 - a. What is the verdict of those charges? (v33)
 - b. What does “justify” mean in v33?

- 6) Why are those whom God has chosen free from condemnation? (v34)
 - a. What is the significance of Jesus being at the right hand of God? (v34b)

- 7) What comfort can we draw from the fact that Jesus is still interceding for us before God?

- 8) What are some of the accusations that people/things bring against you about who you are in your life? How can you answer those charges based on this passage?

Conclusion

What is there to fear when God is for us? The God of the Bible is all-powerful, majestic, utterly glorious, transcendent, eternally loving, merciful, and gracious. If such a God is for us, what is there in all of creation can be against us? This God did not spare his Son for us. He sent Jesus as a sacrifice of atonement (cf. Rom 3:21-28) for our sins. God, the righteous Judge, has declared us righteous (justified) because of the blood of Christ. If this God has declared us righteous, who can condemn us or bring any accusation or charges against us? No one!

What is more, we have Christ, our saviour and mediator, sitting at the right hand of the Father, interceding and advocating for us. We have nothing to fear anymore. Satan can accuse us of our unworthiness before God. We may not live up to our own expectations in life, and thus think of ourselves as useless. People in our lives may look down on us because we do not fit into their vision of what life is. But why do all those things matter when the God of the universe, the one who made all things, is for us? God himself has declared us righteous and did not spare his own Son. If he did not, will he not give us all things? We may not receive those things right now, but we trust in God and know that all things will be ours in the new heaven and the new earth. “We wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies.” (Romans 8:23)