

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

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Romans 8:31-39

1. Why is Christianity not taken more seriously in our culture?
2. It is not taken more seriously in our culture because most of those who call themselves Christians do not take their relationship with Jesus Christ seriously.
3. Take a simple passage like Hebrews 3:1-2.  
Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest of our confession; 2 He was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also was in all His house.
  - a. In our recent studies we have learned that God's goal for every believer is conformity to the image of Jesus Christ.
  - b. Every true follower of Jesus Christ is a partaker of a heavenly calling (a calling that came from Heaven).
  - c. Like Jesus you and I are to be faithful to Him who appointed us.
  - d. Are we?
4. The passage before us was written by a man who did take his heavenly calling seriously.
5. What Paul wrote here he wrote under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, but also from the perspective of his personal experience.
6. It is one thing to talk about suffering for Christ, but it is a whole different thing to write about it having actually suffered for Christ. 2 Cor 11:21-29  
But in whatever respect anyone else is bold — I speak in foolishness — I am just as bold myself. 22 Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they descendants of Abraham? So am I. 23 Are they servants of Christ? — I speak as if insane — I more so; in far more labors, in far more imprisonments, beaten times without number, often in danger of death. 24 Five times I received from the Jews thirty-nine lashes. 25 Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, a night and a day I have spent in the deep. 26 I have been on frequent journeys, in dangers (peril) from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from my countrymen, dangers from the Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers on the sea, dangers among false brethren; 27 I have been in labor and hardship, through many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. 28 Apart from such external things, there is the daily pressure on me of concern for all the churches. 29 Who is weak without my being weak? Who is led into sin without my intense concern?
7. Truly following Jesus Christ is going to cost us. Note Jesus's words in Luke 6:26, "Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for their fathers use to treat the false prophets the same way."

## **I. What then shall we say to these things? 31-32**

A. Another way this question could be framed is, "What then shall we say in response to these things?"

1. These things could refer to all that Paul had taught up to this point.
2. These things could, and probably do, refer to verses 28-30.

"We are assured and know that [God being a partner in their labor] all things work together and are [fitting into a plan] for good to and for those who love God and are called according to [His] design and purpose. For those whom He foreknew [of whom He was aware and loved beforehand], He also destined from the beginning [foreordaining them] to be molded into the image of His Son [and share inwardly His likeness], that He might become the firstborn among many brethren. And those whom He thus foreordained, He also called; and those whom He called, He also justified (acquitted, made righteous, putting them into right standing with Himself). And those He justified, He also glorified [raising them to a heavenly dignity and condition or state of being]." (AMP)

B. If God is for us, supporting us, working in us, and working through us, how can anyone or anything successfully oppose us?

C. What genuine need will God fail to provide since He did not spare His own Son?

D. Having delivered Him over for us all will He not also with Him freely give us all things?

E. Following Jesus is not easy, but those who faithfully do so will never be left alone or denied any needful thing.

## **II. Who will bring a charge against God's elect? 33-34**

A. I am not going to try and address the differences between those who are reformed in their theology as opposed to those who lean towards Arminianism.

B. I will say that no one can become a Christian apart from God's activity towards them.

C. For the purpose of this study I will limit my thoughts to the passage before us that states that God's elect:

1. Are those who have been justified.
2. Are those who have been justified based on their faith in Christ and His atoning sacrifice on their behalf.
3. Are those for whom Christ is currently interceding at the right hand of God.

D. Let us remember that "...there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." Romans 8:1

## **III. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? 35-39**

A. Two early manuscripts use the word God here, but neither translation changes the essential meaning of the passage.

B. All of the realities listed in verse 35 have a personality or personalities behind them thus the word who is used as opposed to what.

C. All are encountered because of our commitment to Jesus Christ and the Gospel. 36

D. But nothing or no one can sever us from the love of God that is ours in Christ Jesus.

E. Verses 37-39 emphasis two aspects of God's love.

1. Note first of all that in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved (past tense) us.

a. We overwhelmingly conquer based on what Christ did for us.

b. William Newell wrote the following in his commentary on Romans.

“It is this past tense gospel the Devil hates—for ‘the Word of the Cross is the power of God.’ (1 Corinthians 1:18) Let a preacher be continually saying, ‘God loves you, Christ loves you,’ and he and his congregation will by and by be losing sight both of their sinnerhood and of the substitutionary atonement of the cross, where the love of God and of Christ was once and for all and supremely set forth,—and in righteous display.”

2. Secondly we will overwhelmingly conquer because of the ongoing love of God which is ours in Christ Jesus.

NOTE: We need not fear death, which ends all our problems, or life with all of its problems because God loves and cares for those who are His blood-bought children.

#### **APPLICATION**

1. It is one thing to know what the Bible says; it is another thing to be bound or controlled by what it says.

2. Notice in verse 38 Paul stated, “For I am convinced (fully persuaded).”

3. You may own a Bible, but does the Bible own you?

4. More importantly, are you a church-defined Christian or a true follower of the Lord Jesus Christ?

5. May God help us to know the difference.