

Daily Bread with Brother Hwa-Chi (Not reviewed by the speaker, for personal use only)

Romans 8: 31-35

Brothers and sisters, peace be with you, this is Hwa-Chi. Thank God, it's time to read the Bible again. Let's continue to read Romans Chapter 8. We will read verses 31-35 today.

Romans Chapter 8 concludes with Paul's assurance and confidence in salvation, leading to a doxology of praise to God. Thus, verses 31-39 of Chapter 8 can be seen as the believer's assurance of glorification, as this passage immediately follows the discussion on glorification. At the same time, this section can also be viewed as the conclusion of Romans Chapters 1 to 8, which outlines the journey of every believer's life: from being condemned at the start, to being justified, to progressive sanctification, and ultimately to glorification. This entire process of salvation, along with every experience encountered within it, is filled with assurance and certainty of salvation.

Paul first raises five questions, answering them himself to express his praise for the steadfastness of salvation. The final question is, "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?" In response to this question, Paul, drawing from his personal experiences, declares in one breath that in seven kinds of tribulations, we can experience Christ's love and be more than conquerors. He then lists four things that cannot separate us from the love of God.

I believe every believer reading Romans will suddenly realize that our salvation by grace is so sublime, so excellent, far exceeding what we ask or think. In this concluding doxology, Paul expresses the emotions we want to convey but lack the words for. Therefore, these concluding words require less explanation and more bold proclamation and praise, just like Paul.

Thus, I urge believers, if possible, to memorize this passage so that we can frequently use it in our prayers and praises to God. Memorizing it also has a great benefit: when our faith is weak and we doubt our salvation, this passage clearly

tells us of the certainty of salvation, and this certainty is not in us but in God and Christ. Today, we will read the first five questions, and tomorrow we will read the final question.

Verse 31: “What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?”

“What then shall we say to these things?” refers to the preceding discussion of God’s foreknowledge and predestination, our calling, justification, and ultimate glorification. This complete process of salvation is so perfect and so comprehensive; it is God’s eternal will and plan. In the face of such a magnificent salvation, what more can we say?

Next, Paul asks five consecutive questions to help us reflect on the reliability, certainty, and assurance of salvation from five perspectives. Paul knows that the journey of salvation in our lives is long, and we often stumble or even have moments of doubt. Therefore, Paul firmly tells us that the certainty and assurance of salvation lie not in us but in the God who accomplished salvation for us. Paul helps us shift our focus and gaze to God rather than our own circumstances.

The first question is, “If God is for us, who can be against us?” The God who created the universe stands with us and causes all things to work together for our good. If such a great God is helping us, what do we have to fear? Who can stand against us? In times of strength, God stands with us; in times of weakness, He is still by our side. In times of victory, God stands with us; in times of failure, He is still by our side. In times of peace and joy, God stands with us; in times of sorrow and weeping, He is even more by our side. God is for us, so who can stand against us? Who can be greater than the God who created the universe? Who can be more transcendent than the God who gives the breath of life?

Sometimes we may feel that God is not helping us because we focus our gaze on ourselves or our surrounding circumstances, forgetting that God is for us. Whenever we turn our eyes to look to Christ, we will see that God has always been

there, standing with us, helping us. God's help is not according to our thoughts but according to His eternal will and plan.

Verse 32: "He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?"

The second question is, "How shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?" In this verse, Paul further tells us how God helps us: God will freely give us all things along with His Son, Jesus Christ. When we had fallen to a point where we could not save ourselves and were in a state of despair, God did not spare His own Son—almost ruthlessly did not spare Him—causing Him to leave the glorious throne in heaven, humble Himself to come to earth, become a lowly servant to serve man, and ultimately be crucified for humanity's sins. What father would be so harsh to his son? Yet the Heavenly Father, for our sake, did not spare His Son but delivered His only beloved Son for us all.

Especially when Jesus was hanging on the cross, He cried out loudly, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" Hearing Jesus' cry, how great was the pain in the Father's heart? But for our sake, the Father forsook His beloved Son—what love, what help! The Father delivered up His Son so that He could give Christ to us.

Humanity had fallen to such a deplorable state that we were not even qualified to receive God's help. Therefore, Christ had to first become the atoning Lamb, paying the penalty for our sins, so that through Christ's redemption, we could gain a position to receive God's help. When we believe in Christ Jesus, God gives us all things along with Christ.

Why does Paul say that God gives us all things along with Christ? On one hand, Paul knows our shortsightedness and foolishness, often asking God for this or that—praying for healing when sick, a job when unemployed, encouragement when discouraged, comfort when sorrowful, strength when weak. We come to God with our needs, and God is certainly willing to help us. But on the other hand, Paul knows even more that God's will is for us to gain Christ. Thus, no matter what we ask for,

God not only grants it but also gives us Christ along with it. If we could truly have Paul's perspective, we would realize that gaining Christ means gaining everything.

Do you need peace? Christ is your peace. Do you need joy? Christ is your joy. Do you need patience? Christ is your patience. In fact, Christ is the answer to all our problems. How God longs for us to seek only Christ, and God will give us Christ along with all things. We often think of God as a retailer, asking for this or that, but God is a wholesaler. When God gives us Christ, we gain everything.

Verse 33: "Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies."

This is the third question: "Who shall bring a charge against God's elect?" The Greek word for "charge" is composed of two Greek words, en and kaleo, literally meaning "call in," like a court summons calling someone to face questioning. This word has evolved to mean "accuse" or "charge." Originally, accusation is a calling in the spirit: God calls people, while Satan accuses them. From the beginning, Satan has been the accuser, and accusation is linked to calling. God calls people to come to Christ to receive life, enabling them to enjoy joy and peace. But Satan calls people to pursue the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.

When people pursue these desires and fall into the snare of sin, Satan seizes the opportunity to accuse them. When we were still living in the old self, we could not escape Satan's accusations, for we all sinned and fell short of the glory of God. But thanks be to the Lord, once we accept salvation, under the covering of Christ's precious blood, God has justified us, our sins have been forgiven, and who can still accuse us? God has chosen us, and God has called us. Those whom God calls, He justifies; those whom He justifies, He will glorify. Satan can no longer accuse us.

Verse 34: "Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us."

This is the fourth question: “Who is he who condemns?” Since no one can accuse us, no one can condemn us either—a simple logic. But Paul knows that our lives are often irrational, and our subjective experiences often fall into the trap of emotions. When we fall into weakness and failure, we may doubt. Paul firmly tells us here that Christ Jesus has died, paying the full price for our sins. Not only that, but He has also risen from the dead and is now seated at the right hand of the Father, interceding for us.

In Romans 8:26, we read, “Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.” This verse tells us that when we fall into weakness and failure, the Holy Spirit dwelling within us immediately intercedes for us with groanings that cannot be uttered. This is a distress signal sent from the depths of our spirit, and Christ, seated at the right hand of the throne, receives this signal and immediately intercedes for us. His intercession is powerful because He Himself has died, paying the full price for our sins, and has risen and ascended, demonstrating that the Father has accepted His redemptive work. He can intercede for us with full confidence.

On one hand, we have the Holy Spirit within us, fully aware of our needs; on the other hand, we have Christ seated at the right hand of the throne, having removed our sins and standing in a position of victory, interceding for us. Through the intercession of the Holy Spirit and Christ, God causes all things to work together, including our weaknesses, failures, doubts, and lack of faith. Thus, the Father arranges all things so that every event we experience and every circumstance we go through will work for our good. Because we are called according to the Father’s will, God will bring us back to His will and purpose, enabling us to see His plan.

Every event we go through is within God’s plan, and His purpose is for us to gain Christ through these circumstances. As Paul says in Philippians 1:20-21, “according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.”

How God longs for us to be like Paul, bold in all things, so that no matter what circumstances we face, no matter how difficult they are, Christ will be magnified in us. In this way, each of us can boldly walk the path of sanctification. As Paul declares in Philippians 3:8, “Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ.” (NKJV) Gaining Christ means gaining all things. Christ is the answer to all our problems.

Verse 35: “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?”

This fifth question is also the most important: “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?” This verse leads to Paul’s beautiful response, which we should all memorize. We will read the details tomorrow. Today, we only need to know that no matter what tribulation or temptation we fall into, whether we are discouraged by tribulation, helpless in weakness, or self-pitying in failure, we must proclaim, “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?”

Dear brothers and sisters, let us review the five questions Paul raises: If God is for us, who can be against us? Shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? Who shall bring a charge against God’s elect? Who is he who condemns? Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Love means that no person, no thing, no circumstance can separate us from God or from the love of Christ.

As Jesus Christ says in John 10:27-29, “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father’s hand.” With Jesus Christ’s assurance and the Father’s power and faithfulness, what do we have to fear?

Let us pray together: Lord, thank You! Through Paul’s doxology, we once again recognize the certainty and steadfastness of salvation. The source of our salvation is not in ourselves but in God’s eternal will, purpose, and plan, and in Jesus Christ’s

completion of God's plan, granting us the grace of redemption. Once we accept salvation, God justifies us. Satan cannot accuse us or condemn us. No thing can separate us from the love of Christ. Lord, grant us such faith and assurance, helping us to face every circumstance with peace and joy, knowing that all these are within God's plan, with the purpose of enabling us to gain Christ. Bless our daily lives. We pray in the holy name of Jesus Christ.