



EXPLORE THE BIBLE®

Psalms Sermon Series

Supports Session 14: God's Presence

Sermon Title: "If God is For Us" (Romans 8:31-39)

Connection to Session 14

In Psalm 42, the psalmist described God's presence with His people amidst difficulty and adversity. One key New Testament passage that shows God's power to save through hard times is Romans 8:31-39. Here, Paul encouraged believers to hope in God's salvation through Jesus.

Introduction/Opening

We live in a fast-paced world that can be easily overwhelming. We also live in a world that is broken by sin, and we see its effects throughout every area of life. We face relational difficulties, financial difficulties, physical difficulties, and spiritual difficulties along our journey of following Jesus. How should we think about these things? Romans 8:31-39 reminds us that God is with us and for us through all things. Through Christ, God gives us hope to persevere, knowing that we cannot be separated from His love. In this sermon, we will see several reasons why we can hope in God.

Outline

1. God is For Us (Rom. 8:31-34)

- a. In Romans 8, Paul explained the reality of our present suffering in a fallen world. All things, even creation itself, longs to be free from the suffering that sin has caused (Rom. 8:18). Glory is coming for the believer, and the Spirit has been given to help us in our present weakness (8:23-24).
- b. When God spoke to his people through the prophet Isaiah, He reminded them time and again that He was for them. He promised to strengthen them and help them, upholding them with his righteous right hand (Isa. 41:10). He promised to go ahead of them to lead them and protect them from dangers behind them (Isa. 52:12).
- c. Paul encouraged the believers to answer their suffering and their fears with truth from the gospel— "What, then, are we to say about these things?" (Rom. 8:31). The answers Paul provided help us learn how to answer our fears. The first answer is that God is for us, which He demonstrated through giving up His own Son so that we could be saved (v. 32).
- d. Giving to others signifies support. GoFundMe is a popular platform that utilizes crowdfunding to help support people who have gone through a tragedy. By giving to the fund, we demonstrate that we are *for* the people suffering. In the same way, God showed that He is for us by sending Jesus for us.

- e. God also demonstrated that He is for us by silencing accusations and condemnations against us (vv. 33-34). In Revelation, Satan is described as “the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before our God day and night” (Rev. 12:10). Our sin has been forgiven through the death of Christ.

2. God Loves Us (Rom. 8:35-36)

- a. It has been said that the Bible is a love story, which is partly true. It is primarily a story of God’s love for His unfaithful and weak people. The Bible provides abundant testimony about the love of God in Christ Jesus.
- b. When we suffer, we may doubt the love of God for us. It is easy to allow our circumstances to grow larger in our minds than the love of God. But God’s love for us is an everlasting love (Jer. 31:3). Even in the worst of suffering, whether various dangers, persecution, or famine, God’s love remains. But how can we be certain of God’s love? Paul pointed us again to Christ.
- c. God’s love is most clearly demonstrated in that He sent Jesus to die for us. Jesus said, “For God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16).

3. God Promises Us Victory (Rom. 8:37)

- a. When we endure suffering and weakness, it feels like we’re fighting a losing battle. Our doubts and fears can overwhelm us. However, Paul told the believers in Rome that they were “more than conquerors” through Christ (Rom. 8:37).
- b. Watching football can be hard if you support a team that always appears to be the underdog. Imagine watching a game, and it looks like your team is struggling, and yet miraculously, they win with a great comeback. When we suffer, we must remember that God has fought the battle for us; Jesus has conquered the world (John 16:33).

4. God is Always with Us (Rom. 8:38-39)

- a. Being separated from those you love can be a scary feeling. Paul wanted to put to death any thought that believers can be separated from God’s love. Whether it is depression or dejection (Ps. 42:5-6), the Lord will “send his faithful love by day” (Ps. 42:8).
- b. God is with us everywhere. Neither height nor depth can separate us from God. God’s presence overwhelms all of created space (Ps. 139:7-12). Even when David was running from King Saul and his threats of death, God was with him.
- c. Ultimately, nothing in creation can separate us from God (Rom. 8:39). We are loved by the Creator, who is greater than His creation.

Conclusion

No matter what season of life we face, we can rest assured that God is for us, He loves us, He promises us victory, and He is with us. There is nothing we face that will ultimately overtake us because we have been given eternal victory and life in Christ. If God is for us, what can be against us?

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