

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The word of God of Him who is for us is found in the Epistle to the Romans 8:31-39.

“What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *can be* against us? 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? 33 Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? *It is* God who justifies. 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. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *Shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." 37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. 38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

So far our text. Dear follow servant's of the Word.

Have any of you had to deal with a bully? Throughout your life I would assume you had to deal with at least one of them.

A bully for me always came in the form of a classmate. I remember in grade school we had a notorious bully. There wasn't only the threat of force from this person but very often he acted upon it.

What does one do in a situation like this? As a kid one is very fearful of what could happen by the hand of another person. When the other student looks like they should be in middle school already it makes the matter even worse.

But bullies can come in the form of a brother or sister. It could be someone at work or another government. Unfortunately it can be a wife or husband who threatens.

There was nothing better in grade school than to have someone as your friend who the bully didn't pick on. Not because this person would retaliate, but because bullies are usually a bunch of cowards. But having a friend that makes you feel safe is a wonderful thing.

To the embarrassment of her brothers my mother used to take care of the bullies in their lives. That is until the day they told her to stop because of the embarrassment. Having an army stronger than another is one of great comfort as well. We feel much more assured that we would never see a battle on our own soil.

And wives often look to her husband in one way or another as their knight in shining armor? My strong man will take care of the problem. He will protect me and the kids.

How do we look at Jesus? Do we look at Him as some kind of weakling? Do we look to ourselves as the source for getting us through the problems of life? Or do we look to Him as the One who will get us

through any and all confrontations in our lives. Any weakness on our part is addressed in our text for today where God tells us, **“If God is for us, who can be against us?”**

A bully is one thing. But, are there things in life that we should be rightfully afraid of? The apostle Paul mentions many things, **“*Shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?”**

Tribulation. This word literally means, a pressing together. Things come at you from all sides. Jobs and family life alone can make it feel like you’re being pressed. But if they involve a pressing upon you for the faith you have it takes things to another level. Family or your job may be demanding something of you that isn’t what God wants. You can feel pressed together with stress. How is my boss going to react if I tell him that I can’t do something? Is my family going to stop loving me?

Distress. This is the exact opposite thing of tribulation. They are pressures brought about internally. What are we doing about all these things we experience every day? And what about the private things we do that no one sees? Do we keep them close and beat ourselves up with them?

Persecution. Have you been told you’re intolerant because your church doesn’t allow anyone to come to communion? Have you lost friends or a job because of your faithfulness to the word? And what about the future? Many have a fear about what will happen as the world becomes more tolerant to everything but the Gospel of Christ.

Famine and nakedness. What would you do for food? Would you steal for it? Would you kill for it for the sake of your family? Would you deny the faith?

Peril and the sword. Maybe the number one fear we have. The danger of our life by the hand of another. Christians have and are suffering around the world. To this day people are being put to death because of their faith in Jesus Christ. This is how the world looks at you, **“As it is written: “For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.”** How would you respond? If we ask that according to our human nature we would be afraid to answer. We love ourselves and our families. What we might do according to the flesh is a scary thought.

But Paul brings these things up not in regards to our earthly life on earth. You see these things mentioned have no real bearing on anything. Because, **“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?”**

None of the things mentioned should ever be a concern for us. Matthew 6:25 **“Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?”**

It’s not only the things already mentioned, but these things as well. **“For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”** Is there anything in our lives that doesn’t fit into all these examples?

Now Paul says that he is convinced that none of these things would tear him away from Jesus. But what convinced him of this? The very thing that convinced you!

“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?” Peace and safety during this life is one thing. Something we concentrate on way to much. But the one thing we NEED to be rescued from the Lord has taken care of perfectly by not sparing His own Son.

What wouldn't we do for our own family? What didn't God do to make you part of His family. To make you a child of God? He put to death His perfect Son! **“And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.”** There is no selfishness in what God did for us. It is His pure love given to us in what He did to Jesus, for our sake.

And now the Lord has promised to give us all things. We must be careful here in overstepping what this text means. The Lord promises to provide us what we need so that we don't fall away on account of all these things mentioned. Basically so we are not snatched out of His hand for any reason.

“Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 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.”

Who will bring a charge against you? No one can! When you fail in something and your flesh, the devil or the world comes and accuses you, God has justified you in His Son. He in Christ has declared you free of blame.

Since that's the case who can condemn you? No one but Jesus can. And He has chosen out of love for us to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. God isn't able to condemn us in Christ. That would go completely contrary to what Jesus came to do. Our text states this by stating the fact that it was Christ who died. But not only died but rose from the dead. The One who freed us from all guilt and fear over our sins is living! We not only have confidence in the fact that we will live forever with Him but we know that He makes intercession for us.

We sin every day. Our very existence is one of sin because we have inherited it from Adam and Eve. The bullies of the world will come and try to make life hard for us. So that we might blame God and try to weaken us so that we might fall away.

But no bully can stand up to Jesus nailed to the cross and win. The promises of our God are something we can trust in. We have nothing to fear because we are now in Christ. No one can snatch us out of His hand because, **“If God is for us, who can be against us?”**