


A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED ON PAUL'S LETTER TO THE CHURCH IN ROME

A QUESTION WITH A WONDERFUL ANSWER

Romans 8:31 "What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?"

Sixteen times in his letter to the Romans, St. Paul penned a rhetorical question. Today's devotional thought, based on Romans 8:31, is derived from one of these sixteen questions. "What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?"

There is no one like God! When God promises He will bring good into your life, He will keep His promise. ". . .those He predestined, He also called; those He called, He also justified; those He justified, He also glorified." (Romans 8:29) These are the things God has done for you that prompted St. Paul to write this rhetorical , "What, then, shall we say in response to these things? St. Paul is writing about God's grace, His underserved love, His riches at Christ's expense that is at work in you.

The "if" in today's devotional verse is not a word of uncertainty. He is not writing about some hypothetical situation. He is not questioning whether God is for you or against you. The "if" here means "in view of the fact that God is for you, no one, nothing, can be against you." These words of St. Paul are to draw you back to Jesus' word, to His personal promise to you, "surely, I will be with you always to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:20)

Your Savior Jesus, who gave His life for you to receive God's gift of everlasting life is the source of St. Paul's answer to his rhetorical question. Since Jesus perfectly, completely, to His Father's complete satisfaction gave His life to ransom you from Satan, the world, and your sinful flesh; from eternal death and damnation; therefore, no one, nothing can separate you from the love of your heavenly Father.

By virtue of the faith in Jesus the Holy Spirit has worked in your heart by the power of the Gospel you ". . .have been crucified with Christ and (you) no longer live, but Christ lives in (you.) The life (you) now live in the body, (you) live by faith in the Son of God, who loved (you) and gave Himself for (you.)" (Galatians 2:20) Since God is for you, nothing can be against you.

Prayer: Thank you, Father, for the certain You have given me of eternal life through the saving work of Your Son in my behalf. Amen.

How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!
What more can he say than to you He has said
Who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?

“Fear not! I am with you, O be not dismayed,
For I am your God and will still give you aid;
I’ll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.

“The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose
I will not, I will not, desert to his foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I’ll never, no never, no never, forsake!

“When through fiery trials your pathway will lie,
My grace, all-sufficient, will be your supply.
The flames will not hurt you; I only design
Your dross to consume and your gold to refine.

“Throughout all their lifetime My people will prove
My sov’ reign, eternal, unchangeable love;
And the, when gray hairs will their temples adorn,
Like lambs they will still in My bosom be borne.”
(LSB 728)