

If God Is For Us

Text: Romans 8.31

Theme: Jesus' resurrection brings all the glorious blessings of salvation into reality

Introduction — What then shall we say to these things?

- what things?
- well, the very things the dear apostle has just written about
- these great and marvelous blessings come through Jesus Christ
- but they come through a Savior who died and rose again
- if Jesus were still in the grave, none of it would be ours
- our faith is futile, meaningless, empty
- I'll pronounce the benediction without any conviction
- you'll leave here never to bother coming back again
- there's no reason too
- you just as well spend your Sundays doing something else
- sleeping in, playing sports, watching sports, fishing, hunting, golfing, whatever
- without the Son of Man coming back to life, raised from the dead, all this means nothing

But praise God!

- Jesus is alive!
- He is risen! (He is risen indeed!)
- God is true and His Word is proven true
- Christ has been raised from the dead
- we are not to be pitied, rather, we pity those who don't believe or reject His resurrection
- for here, on what took place this very day long ago, we have joy
- we have confidence, we have faith grounded in truth, power, and reality
- and according to Paul, here in Romans 8, we have blessings and 10,000 beside

Let's consider these blessings from God; first, from v. 30...

I. HE PREDESTINED US

- this is a powerful word, a word which many do not like
- why? It's all over the pages of the New Testament
- the confession tells us:
 - **From all eternity God decreed everything that occurs, without reference to anything outside himself**
 - from all eternity: before God ever said, "Let there be light or water or ground or any such thing"
 - from all eternity, when it was only God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
 - Holy Trinity decreed all that would occur...including you & me
 - and including our new birth and salvation

1. It must take place

- this is what it means to be predestined: determined to be beforehand
- so, must not God's grace take effect in your life? In mine? In all who believe?
- if God has decreed it, who can annul it?
- **Daniel 4:35 — ...He does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, "What have you done?"**

- when God says, it shall most certainly be
- when He said, “Let there be light” that which was not suddenly was
- it could no more have resisted the Divine decree than Lazarus when Jesus called him forth
- He is the potter, we are the clay; clay cannot resist it’s maker & designer
- it takes the shape the potter determines

2. Conformed to His image

- “these things” takes us to this phrase in v. 29
- we are predestined to be something special
- “conformed to the image of Jesus Christ”
- God will make us to be like the One whom He raised from the dead
- **Ephesians 2:4-5 — But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—**
- Jesus was raised by power from on High
- so too shall we be
- spiritually, it has already happened
- Jesus is alive and all who believe upon His name are resurrected from their spiritual death
- but wait! There’s more
- one day, with the shout of the archangel, the blast on the trumpet of heaven
- in the twinkling of an eye, we shall all see Him as He is: raised, ascended, glorified, reigning

3. Rejoice that this is so

- far too many examples of this flood the pages of God’s Holy Word
- God predestined Abraham and called him out of his dead pagan idol worship
- He determined to bring a great nation from Abraham called Israel
- even when they were in bondage, seeming dead as a nation, He determined to set them free
- when God covenants to bring forth a people of His own, it will be done
- and by the justifying, vindicating power of the resurrection, it is and will be so

Brothers, sisters, friends, another blessing arises from this extraordinary truth...

II. HE CALLED US

- “those He predestined He also called”
- “calling” is another vital reality filling holy writ with truth
- God called Abraham, as I just mentioned
- even when Abraham thought it was hopeless, surrounded by enemies, it would be so
- **Isaiah 41:2 ESV Who stirred up one from the east whom victory meets at every step? He gives up nations before him, so that he tramples kings underfoot; he makes them like dust with his sword, like driven stubble with his bow.**
- it is God who rescues; it is God who delivers; it is God who saves, raising from the dead
- “out of Egypt I have called my son” God says
- this was first applied to Israel in slavery in Egypt
- who could stand against this call of the Lord God Almighty?
- He sent plague after plague to break the pride of Pharaoh and Egypt
- when He, at last, said, “Go forth” and His imprisoned people left their land of slavery
- who could have held them in? The answer is clear: absolutely no one

1. He called Jesus out of the grave

- on that first resurrection morning, just as the sun was starting to rise, God spoke

- God called forth His Son from death
- could the humanity of Jesus have resisted? No, it is impossible; God called Him
- when Lazarus, dead & buried in a similar tomb, was called out
- could he have resisted? No, he was dead, but called by our Lord
- God's call to each one who will be saved has such a certitude that it cannot be denied
- if Jesus waits to return and you who believe in Him perish from this mortal life
- when He calls you on that glorious resurrection day, you will most assuredly come forth

2. His calling works, it is effectual

- many of us here this day have heard that call of God
- being here each Lord's day, remembering & recognizing His resurrection
- works to make that calling and election sure, as Peter tells us to do
- you were once dead, but He called you to new life
- you were in complete & utter darkness, but He summoned you into His marvelous light
- once buried in sin, now placed into holiness
- your self-righteousness—your own attempts to obey God's commands
- has been shattered & you are called into Jesus' perfect obedience by faith in that same Jesus
- He who has called you is faithful; He will not forsake a work of His hands

I feel I could spend weeks preaching on the wonder & splendor of such things, but let's look at the third blessing that is ours because Jesus is raised from the dead...

III. HE JUSTIFIED US

- God is for us by having justified us
- all who believe, by grace thru faith in Jesus, are wrapped full round with righteousness of Christ

1. A beautiful robe

- it is like a robe, pure white, holy and perfect because it is Christ's robe
- what does God require of all humanity?
- personal, perfect, and perpetual obedience to His law and commands
- and we fail every time we attempt it on our own
- even if we were to obey all but one, we are guilty, fallen short of His holy glory
- there is only One who has obeyed perfectly and that is Jesus the Christ
- when God, who knew you before He created anything
- when the Father, in love, predestined you to adoption as sons
- even when He called you, His Spirit re-birthing your dead heart with a living one
- that perfect righteous obedience of Christ's became yours
- now, you are seen as perfect in Jesus; it has been declared to be so
- and again, who can annul what God has declared?
- what can separate you from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus? (v. 35)
- Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?
- no, for we have been justified
- Christ rose from the dead and it is sure, certain, done, completed

2. Accusations cannot stand against us

- **Romans 8:33-34 — Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.**
- so, come you great Accuser of the Brethren

- you can lay a thousand charges against us
- but if Jesus has acquitted us, who is he that condemns?
- if He, who mounted the strong chariot of salvation, as Spurgeon called it
- if He is for us, who can be against us?
- don't ever underestimate the seal of God upon you
- don't take it for granted, live it out now from love & gratitude
- go to Him always, with whatever is on your heart or troubles you
- **Psalm 34:15 — The eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous and his ears toward their cry.**

3. Peace with God

- **Romans 5:1 — Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.**
- it doesn't matter who is at war against you...they will fail...always!
- others may hate you, despise you, work against you
- but the resurrected, ascended and glorified reigning Lord of all is for you
- if God is for us who can be against us?

Jesus is alive and, even as God glorified Him...

IV. HE GLORIFIED US

- like links in an unbreakable chain, this last comes sweetly to us

1. As good as done? No, it IS done

- note this: this word is given to us in the past tense: it is done already
- we usually think, "Oh, one day, I'll be glorified in heaven, but not yet"
- as far as God is concerned
- as far as all that Jesus does for you
- as far as what the Holy Spirit even does for you now
- it is finished, complete, a solid reality
- **Ephesians 2:6 — [God] raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus**
- also note that this verse does not say, "He has promised that we should sit there"
- but that He has already made us sit there with Christ
- so joined with the risen and living Christ are you who believe, you are right there right now
- Christ is our great high priest, our representative
- He has shed His blood for all who believe
- when He took that seat at the right hand of God in heaven, all the elect took seat with Him

2. This must be

- God has decreed it, no one can annul it, as you've heard me say already
- Jesus Himself declares it to be so
- **Matthew 25:34 — Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.**
- do you think God would create a place for His people and not bring them there?
- do you think Christ was offer false hope when He said...
- **John 14:2-3 — In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.**

- Jesus prayed that we would be with Him, even as He is with the Father
- **John 17:24 — Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.**
- this is a certainty, a prayer that MUST be answered by the Father; it is His Son praying
- for each one here who believes, there is a crown already sized for your glorified head
- there is a mansion that must have its rightful tenant
- will there be crowns without heads to wear them?
- will there be harps without hands to strike upon their strings?
- will there be a roll called up yonder and no one to hear it?
- No! A thousand times no and even more

Conclusion – Christ is risen! (He is risen indeed!)

- **1 Corinthians 15:14-19 — And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.**
- sad words indeed, if they were true
- but praise God He is risen! (He is risen indeed!)
- **1 Corinthians 15:20 — But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.**
- Adam was our representative in sin, but Christ is now in our salvation & resurrection power
- **1 Corinthians 15:22 ESV For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.**
- so, what can be against us? (Nothing!)
- it is hard, even with inspired Scripture, in human words to tell you how God is for you
- He was for you before the worlds were made
- He was for you, even as He sent His Son to take on human flesh
- He was for you, when His Son hung on that cruel cross
- between heaven and earth, bearing the Father's wrath for sin, He was for you
- He was for us and against Him in that moment in time
- even when you were yet against Him, fighting Him off, He was for you
- He is for you because He raised His Son from the dead, all praise be to God
- Jesus is alive and He is for you—eternally and immutable
- and when those blue skies shall be rolled up like a scroll—He will still be for us!