

### **Devotional Questions – Romans 8:31-39**

1. *What are ‘these things’ that Paul speaks about (Romans 8:31)?*
2. *How does the Lord prove to us in that He really is for us, that is, on our side (Romans 8:32)?*
3. *Why cannot anyone bring a charge against us (Romans 8:33-34)?*
4. *Who might accuse you of sinning?*  
*So what comfort is in Romans 8:33?*
5. *What four statements does Paul make about Jesus in Romans 8:34?*
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
  - d.
6. *What is the point of Paul’s question from Psalm 44:22 (Romans 8:36)?*
7. *According to Paul (Romans 8:36, 38-39)*
  - a. *Who can separate us from the love of God?*
  - b. *What can separate us from the love of God?*
8. *How is the Christian more than a conqueror (Romans 8:37)?*
9. *In hindsight, how do you see God at work through your suffering and hardships?*

## Devotional Questions – Romans 8:31-39, Answers to Questions

See Dr Ruckman's commentary *The Book of Romans* pp 336-346 and the *Ruckman Reference Bible* p 1498 for detailed comment.

1. What are 'these things' that Paul speaks about (Romans 8:31)?

**"These things"** may be summed up as **"the things of the Spirit"** Romans 8:5 for all those **"in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you"** Romans 8:9:

- **Things of freedom.** **"...the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death"** Romans 8:2
- **Things of righteousness.** **"his Spirit that dwelleth in you...is life because of righteousness"** Romans 8:10-11
- **Things of family.** **"the Spirit of adoption...itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God...whom...he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren"** Romans 8:15-16, 30
- **Things of prayer.** **"the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered"** Romans 8:26

2. How does the Lord prove to us in that He really is for us, that is, on our side (Romans 8:32)?

Romans 8:32 states **"He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?"** and therefore as Paul also states **"For all things are yours; Whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are yours; And ye are Christ's; and Christ is God's"** 1 Corinthians 3:21-23. In type Luke 15:31 **"And he said unto him, Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine"** depicts the relationship between God and those that are His.

3. Why cannot anyone bring a charge against us (Romans 8:33-34)?

The reason is that all such charges have been laid on the Lord Jesus Christ as Paul explains. **"For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him"** 2 Corinthians 5:21.

4. Who might accuse you of sinning?

So what comfort is in Romans 8:33?

John identifies the main accuser – all others are but his minions – and in that context explains the comfort of Romans 8:33 with respect to **"being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him"** Romans 5:9 because today's believer is one of **"the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood"** Acts 20:28 to which he should always testify. **"...the Devil and Satan...the accuser of our brethren...accused them before our God day and night. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death"** Revelation 12:9-11.

One believer who died in the comfort of Romans 8:33 **"Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth"** was Lieutenant Henry 'Birdie' Bowers of the ill-fated 1911-1912 Scott Expedition [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Terra\\_Nova\\_Expedition](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Terra_Nova_Expedition) to the South Geographical Pole. Peter Fitzsimons in *Mawson* p 203 describes Bowers as a 27-year-old God-fearing Scotsman of the Royal Indian Marine Service. He had been assigned to catching pirates in the Persian Gulf and to survey the Irrawaddy River, Burma. In assisting the loading of the ship *Terra Nova* to take the expedition to Antarctica, Bowers fell through the main hatch 19 feet onto a pile of pig iron, picked himself up, dusted himself off and continued on, thereby reckoned by Captain Scott RN as just the man to join the expedition. Bowers was the expedition's polar navigator. His last letter to his mother said this, *Mawson* p 636.

22 March 1912

My own Dearest Mother

...my trust is still in Him and the abounding grace of my Lord and Saviour whom you brought me up to trust in...

When man's extremity is reached God's help may make things light and thus the end will be painless enough for myself...

Your ever loving son to the end of this life and the next when we will meet and where God shall wipe away the tears from our eyes.

5. What four statements does Paul make about Jesus in Romans 8:34?

Romans 8:34 states ***“Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.”*** Paul therefore states that:

- a. ***“Christ...died.”*** The Lord Jesus Christ said ***“I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death”*** Revelation 1:18.
- b. ***“Christ...is risen again.”*** ***“Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up”*** John 2:19.
- c. ***“Christ...is even at the right hand of God.”*** The Lord Jesus Christ said ***“Hereafter shall the Son of man sit on the right hand of the power of God”*** Luke 22:69.
- d. ***“Christ...also maketh intercession for us.”*** The Lord Jesus Christ said ***“And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you”*** John 14:16-17.

It could therefore be said of Paul and his testimony to the Lord Jesus Christ as it should be said of today's believer and his testimony to the Lord Jesus Christ what John was able to say of his testimony to the Lord Jesus Christ. ***“This is the disciple which testifieth of these things, and wrote these things: and we know that his testimony is true”*** John 21:24.

6. What is the point of Paul's question from Psalm 44:22 (Romans 8:36)?

Romans 8:36 is almost an exact match of Psalm 44:22 and it states ***“As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.”*** The point of the quotation is that especially insofar as ***“neither death...shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is Christ Jesus our Lord”*** Romans 8:38-39 then faithful testimony to the Lord Jesus Christ takes priority over individual survival as Paul observed with Stephen.

***“And I said, Lord, they know that I imprisoned and beat in every synagogue them that believed on thee: And when the blood of thy martyr Stephen was shed, I also was standing by, and consenting unto his death, and kept the raiment of them that slew him”*** Acts 22:19-20.

See *Question 4* and note therefore that today's believer should therefore pray to be as, if needs must, the believers of Revelation 12:11 ***“And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.”***

7. According to Paul (Romans 8:36, 38-39)

- a. Who can separate us from the love of God?
- b. What can separate us from the love of God?

The essential answer to *Questions 7a, 7b* is: not the *methods* of Satan, the *manifestations* of Satan, the *ministers* of Satan or the *messengers* of Satan, 2 Corinthians 2:11, 11:14-15, 12:7. However, with the Lord in the wilderness “...***when the devil had ended all the temptation, he departed from him for a season***” Luke 4:13. Today’s believer therefore should always be ready to “***Resist the devil***” James 4:7 as the Lord Jesus Christ did. “***And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God***” Luke 4:4 with in this case Deuteronomy 8:3 “***...man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live.***”

8. How is the Christian more than a conqueror (Romans 8:37)?

Paul explains how with respect to Romans 8:37 that the believer is more than a conqueror because he is actually a beneficiary, though that is typically not appreciated at the time in this writer’s experience. “***And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ’s sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong***” 2 Corinthians 12:9-10. The beneficiary in turn becomes a benefactor. See *Question 9*.

9. In hindsight, how do you see God at work through your suffering and hardships?

See *Question 8* and note that such difficulties are intended to make for a better testimony to the Lord Jesus Christ as Peter explains. “***Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ***” 1 Peter 1:6-7.

From [thelatterdays.blogspot.co.uk/2011/10/is-you-is-or-is-you-aint.html](http://thelatterdays.blogspot.co.uk/2011/10/is-you-is-or-is-you-aint.html)

