

ROMANS 8:31-32
NOTHING AND NO-ONE CAN DEFEAT THOSE WHOM GOD DEFENDS

INTRODUCTION

4 AREAS THAT WE WILL FACE CHALLENGES IN THIS WORLD

Romans 8:31-39 says we need to watch out. We are under attack. It seems like that all the time. This passage says we will be opposed; we will be accused; we may be condemned; attempts will be made to separate us from the love of God.

Write them down one at a time, numbering each one with the verse where we are 'warned' about the thing to watch out for. Then wipe each one out.

1. THERE WILL BE THOSE WHO WILL BE AGAINST US: ***Rom 8:31 who can be against us?***
2. THERE WILL BE REGULAR CHARGES BROUGHT US AGAINST US – REMINDERS OF HOW WE HAVE SINNED AND FAILED GOD AND FAILED OTHER PEOPLE WHO RELIED ON US - ***Rom 8:33 Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen?***
3. THERE WILL BE THOSE WHO CONDEMN US AS BEING UNWORTHY TO BE CALLED SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF GOD AND WE MAY EVEN BE SENTENCED TO SERVE HARSH PUNISHMENTS - ***Rom 8:34 Who is he that condemns?***
4. THERE WILL BE TIME THAT THERE WILL SO MUCH AGAINST US ALL AT THE SAME TIME THAT WE WILL FEEL THAT WE HAVE BEEN SEPERATED FROM THE LOVE OF GOD - ***Rom 8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?***

Wipe each challenge out because these are only warnings of "potential" challenges in the passage. But we're reading it wrong. These things **may** happen, but they won't succeed. This passage says these things will come, but God will rise up to help us each time.

In fact, this passage lists 4 ways that God will help us through different challenges, and it confirms all of this by mentioning 2 special names that God gives to every believer. So, let's read this passage properly, like it's supposed to be read.

1. NO-ONE WHO OPPOSES US CAN DEFEAT US :

If God is for us, who can be against us? Rom 8:32 He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things.

- Heb 13:5 God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." Heb 13:6 So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?"

We will be opposed, but God will help us

2. NO-ONE CAN BRING ANY CHARGE AGAINST US & MAKE IT STICK:

- Rom 8:33 Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies.
- 'bring any charge' = egkaleō, old verb, to come forward as accuser
- It is God who justifies. – God pronounces us forgiven; Dikaioo - to declare, pronounce, one to be just, righteous,

3. NO-ONE CAN CONDEMN US:

- Rom 8:34 Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.
- To condemn is to pass a judgment against, to weigh up the evidence and come to the conclusion that someone is worthy of punishment and then sentence them to serve that sentence. Satan tries to [1] charge us as being guilty of sin and [2] to condemn us as worthy of death.
- We see one seen of how this actually happened to someone:
 - Zec 3:1 Then the Lord showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right side to accuse him. Zec 3:2 The LORD said to Satan, "The LORD rebuke you, Satan! The LORD, who has chosen Jerusalem, rebuke you! Is not this man a burning stick snatched from the fire?" Zec 3:3 Now Joshua was dressed in filthy clothes as he stood before the angel. Zec 3:4 The angel said to those who were standing before him, "Take off his filthy clothes." Then he said to Joshua, "See, I have taken away your sin, and I will put rich garments on you." Zec 3:5 Then I said, "Put a clean turban on his head." So they put a clean turban on his head and clothed him, while the angel of the LORD stood by.
- “Christ Jesus, who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us”
- 1Jn 2:1 My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have **“one who speaks”** to the Father **“in our defense”**—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. 1Jn 2:2 He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

4. NO-ONE - & NOTHING - CAN SEPARATE US FROM THE LOVE OF GOD:

- Rom 8:35 **Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?** [LIST #1]

Here is the longest portion of this passage and it deals with the things we struggle with the most – trying to reconcile the love that God has FOR us with the things that happen TO us.

1. “trouble or
2. hardship or
3. persecution or
4. famine or
5. nakedness or
6. danger or
7. sword?”

We may feel abandoned by God. Ever go through a major crisis and feel alone? I mean not simply thinking that there is really no person you can speak to who will understand? But that even that God is not listening to you or that He has abandoned you. Jesus felt this way:

“Mat 27:46 About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?”—which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

When this happens, what conclusion do we usually come to? “God doesn’t love me. If he does, why is this happening to me? I’m separated from the love of God”. Paul lists 10 more things that seem to separate us from the love of God before he tells us what he thinks in situations like this: neither nor life,

neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation.

- Rom 8:38 For I am convinced that [nothing] will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

To be convinced means to think over something and come to a conclusion that you will stick to. It's something you've made your mind up about after considering all the facts.

Not only is God mentioned above in every challenge we will face, but this passage contains two names by which we are called that should confirm the invincibility in Christ of every believer:

The first one relates back immediately to the passage that we just read:

1. **THROUGH JESUS WE WILL EMERGE AS VICTORS AFTER EVERY BATTLE** - Rom 8:37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. "more than conquerors" - *hupernikaō*. Another double-barreled word in the Greek where two words have been joined together because, well, one word isn't enough to fully describe things. *Huper* – hyper – to go beyond, exceed + *nikao* – subdue; prevail against, conquer. These challenges will not break you. They will make you. You will realise the power of the resurrection that Paul spoke about that lives in every believer. You have it too.

The second word we probably missed because in the NIV it is a phrase

2. **WE ARE GOD'S FAVOURED FAVOURITES** - Rom 8:33 Who will bring any charge against those whom God has **chosen**? "God's **elect** [KJV] - *Eklektos* – the select; by implication favorite: - chosen, elect. *Eklektos* - The favourite favoured ones. God loves us so much and knows that Jesus paid the price that he won't listen to anyone who says anything bad about us. He already chose us to be his favourites, and no one and nothing is going to change his mind

CONCLUSION:

Paul asks, "What shall we say in response?" to all of the above of Romans 8:1-30 and Romans 8:31-39 is what we should say:

Rom 8:31 What, then, shall we say in response to this? We agree with the 4 ways that God will help us, and we agree with the 2 names God gives us in this passage:

1. NO-ONE WHO OPPOSES US CAN DEFEAT US – My God is for me
2. NO-ONE CAN BRING ANY CHARGE AGAINST US & MAKE IT STICK – My God declares me innocent because of the blood of Jesus has cleansed me from my sins
3. NO-ONE CAN CONDEMN US: Jesus is my heavenly advocate and the Father won't entertain malicious gossip about any of his children
4. NO-ONE - & NOTHING - CAN SEPARATE US FROM THE LOVE OF GOD

I AM KNOWN BY TWO NAMES:

1. IN CHRIST I AM MORE THAN A CONQUEROR BECAUSE HE LOVES ME
2. I AM GOD'S SELECTED ELECTED. I AM HIS FAVOURED FAVOURITE

As Forest Gump said, "That's about all that needs to be said about that".