

Worship Theme – Rethinking Religion: Trials, Tests, and Temptations Sermon Theme – Ours in Christ February 17-19, 2024

Romans 8:31-39 What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 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? ³³ Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who then is the one who condemns? No one. 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. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ³⁶ As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." ³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

 How does the truth that God is for us challenge our understanding of adversity, opposition, and "bad" things which happen to us in life?

- 2. In what ways does the assurance of God's love and support impact our response to challenges like hardship, persecution, or danger when we experience these things as a direct result of our faith?
- 3. Explain the comfort found in **v.34** when it comes to the sense of condemnation we feel because of our guilt when condemnation comes from external sources, but also from our own hearts?
- 4. Considering the list of potential obstacles Paul lists, how do they compare with the overarching love of Christ? How do we maintain this perspective no matter what we're facing?

- 5. How does the conviction given us in these verses, that nothing can separate us from the love of God which is ours in Christ, reinforce our perseverance?
- 6. How do these verses help you to reinforce the joyous truth you know, that God is your Father who loves you more than you've the capacity to understand?