

**The Gospel as it Really Is:
Romans simply Explained
More than Conquerors! Romans 8:28-39
October 26th 2025 MHC & MPC**

Samuel Barber composed a beautiful piece called “Adagio for Strings” - some of you may know it.

About three-quarters way through this tune, the strings—only the strings— begin to rise to a crescendo which ascends higher and higher, and just when you think the apex has been reached it keeps going until it reaches a final melodious high.

Something like that is happening in Romans 8. Paul’s confidence in the power of the Gospel and the security of God’s people, his assurance they will get to heaven in spite, all Satan or life can throw at them rises as the chapter progresses:

- “in all things God works for the good.”
- “If God is for us who can be against us?”
- “Who can separate us from the love of God?”
- And finally, the crescendo, “in all these things we are *super-conquerors* through him who loved us..” (literally: it’s a single word in Greek “Hyper-conquerors!” What a mighty crescendo!)

How can you be a hyper-conqueror? Isn’t conquering the pinnacle, you’ve won, you’re the victor? To hyper-conqueror is to win a decisive victory; to win 10-nil, not to scrape through 1-nil. Paul is confident that through the mighty power of God who loves his people, they are, we are, all of us, the weakest saint included, super-conquerors!

We’ve reached Paul’s conclusion: “What shall we say in response to this?” (verse 31), “What shall we say in response to the glorious Gospel Paul has unfolded thus far, chapters 1-8:”

“If God is for us who can be against us?”

It’s a “rhetorical question” which means: “Since God is for us, no one and nothing can be against us. Paul goes on to explain exactly how God is for us:

1. God will provide all our needs
2. God will defend us from all who accuse
3. God will protect us from all who try to separate us

The words of Scripture before us today are filled with divine comfort. First,

1. God will provide all our needs!

“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.”

Paul uses the form of argument “from the greatest to the least.” If God has done the greater thing, if he has given his preeminent gift, will he not grant us the lesser favour, the smaller gifts? If he has given us a billion pounds sterling, will he not give us a mere £100 here, a paltry £10 there? That’s the way Paul reasons. What was God’s greatest gift? *“He did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all”*.

God the Father “gave up his Son” to death for our sake! Although God has many adopted children - you and I who believe - he has only one true Son, the One eternally begotten Son of God, whom, at his baptism, told him that he loves him and is well pleased with him. But because the Father loved **us** he sent that One beloved Son into this world to bear the penalty for our sins instead of us!

“Who delivered up Jesus to die? (wrote Octavius Winslow) Not Judas for money, not Pilate for fear, not the Jews for envy, but the Father for love.”

His Son was the greatest gift God the Father could give, it was his “indescribable gift.”

And since God has given us the greatest gift, argues Paul, the billion pound gift, the salvation gift, “how will he not *also*, along with him, graciously give us all things,” the £10 here, or the £100 there? Every human need we have comes into the £10, £100 bracket!

Brothers and sisters, we really do not need to fret about the “small stuff” of our lives, though we often do! Paul assures us that since God has given us his Greatest Gift he will graciously give us ALL these lesser gifts! All we need to do is to ask!

“You do not have because you do not ask” (James 4) “Ask and it will be given to you; (says Jesus) seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.” (Matthew 7)

God will provide for all our needs!

The second way God shows us that he is for us, says Paul is this:

2. God will defend us from all accusations

“Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. 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.”

Now we're in a court room, God is the Judge, you and I are in the dock, we hear voices tutting and see fingers pointing: accusations are being thrown at us from the left and from the right!

"he's done this" - "she's failed there"

God will defend us from all accusations: "Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen?" He is the Judge of the universe, and since he has declared us righteous in his sight—justified us - no accusation will carry any weight in heaven's court! The prosecution is doomed! Every case will be thrown out! This protection is ours, we should note, not because we **are** actually innocent of wrongdoing, but because of "Christ Jesus who died", says Paul (and paid for our wrongdoing)

And not only did he die for our sins, he rose triumphantly from the dead, ascended to the right hand of God where he is now interceding for us, praying for us! *"if anybody sins we have one who speaks to the Father in our defence—Jesus Christ the righteous one"* (1 John 12:1)

Jesus squashes every accusation made against us made in the heavenlies; he says "I paid for *that* sin—he's forgiven; and *that one*—she's forgiven!"

Who might our accusers be?

(1) It may be our *own conscience* accusing us in our own heads!

(2) It may be *an unbelieving enemy* falsely accusing us—Christians are likely to gather enemies on account of their loyalty to Christ, especially if you are in full time ministry as an evangelist or missionary or a pastor, "Alexander the coppersmith did me a great deal of harm" (2 Timothy 4)

(3) For sure, *Satan constantly accuses* us; he throws fiery arrows of blame into our minds, he is called "the accuser of God's people" (Revelation 12) who "accuses them before God day and night." (Remember how Satan accused Job?)

(4) I say it with sadness, our accuser may *even be a fellow Christian*. (The Scriptures call this sin slander, BTW: it's a serious thing to speak evil of others.) During the Reformation, some of the reformers slandered the humble band of believers called the Anabaptists. I'll protect him by not naming him, but one reformer labelled the Anabaptists an "untaught rabble" who "deny the Scriptures," "corrupt morals" and are guilty of "adultery, parricide, perjury, theft, evil, guile and about all crimes there are anywhere.." Every one of those accusations was untrue!

A cacophony of accusations from the four winds!! What shall we do with them? Allow them to crush us? Deflect us? Distract us? No we remember that the only Judge who matters, has declared us righteous, forever!

Some Christians are far too worried about what people think about them! I remember one pastor saying to a group of pastors, not so long ago, that the older he gets the less he's bothered what

people think about him! That's surely a sign of spiritual growth! As we advance in grace let us grow immune to what others think about us and in its place grow ever more confident in the Lord's judgement:

"Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. 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."

God will protect us from everything and everyone who tries to separate us from God's love

"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? (Paul had faced all of these except the sword, which he did face at his end). As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death 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, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Over the years I have made it a habit to observe, out there in the world, from the daily news, the effects of suffering on marriages. And I have observed that severe trials often dim the love between a husband and wife, and sometimes troubles separate them from one another. (An exception to this has been the way Kate and Gerry McCann have stayed together over the last two decades in spite of losing their daughter Madeline in 2007.) The relationship between some couples falls apart when trouble comes their way.

And we might fear that something like that can happen between a believer and the Lord when trouble comes along.

Paul lists all the beings, all the powers, all the circumstances a believer may face in this life, which might come between us and God, and he declares *that none of them* can separate us from God's love.

SEVEN DANGERS

He begins with seven dangers, six of whom he himself had faced and triumphantly overcome (verse 35 really is his testimony)

(Number 1) trouble or (2) hardship or (3) persecution or (4) famine or (5) nakedness [what does Paul mean by nakedness? I think Paul is thinking about conditions in prison: a jailor didn't give prisoner Paul enough clothes to keep him warm. Primo Levi, who survived Auschwitz, wrote about the cold "From the morning, before dawn, until the distribution of the evening soup, we have to keep our muscles continually tensed, we dance from foot to foot, we beat our arms under our shoulders against the cold."] (number 6) danger, and finally number (danger 7) sword (which Paul hadn't yet experienced but would one day take his life.)

Conclusion? “No, in all these things we are hyper-conquerors through him who loved us.”

TEN DANGERS

For good measure, Paul lists **ten more** perils that might separate us from God’s love:

- **death** our last enemy
- nor **life**—all the troubles we face here
- neither **angels** nor **demons**—invisible powers
- neither the **present** nor the **future** - things that haunt us from the past or circumstances that may hijack us in the future
- nor **any powers** - authorities stronger than us
- neither **height** nor **depth**, - no spatial or physical distance can separate us from God, “If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.” (Psalm 139)
- nor **anything else** in all creation, that covers all the bases, and includes **even ourselves**: you and I cannot separate ourselves from God’s love, not our mistakes, not our foolishness, nor even in old age, perhaps the confusion of dementia!

None of these things “will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord!”

It would be hard to find a more comprehensive way to describe the utter and total security of God's people!

Conclusion

In Christ, we are “hyper-conquerors!” God is for us! (1) He will provide for all of our needs; (2) he will defend us from all accusations and (3) he will protect us from every-one and every-thing that attempts to separate us from God's love.

- You who worry about your earthly needs, God promises to “graciously give you all things” ask him
- You who fear accusations, the Judge of heaven has declared you righteous!
- And you who fear losing touch with God, hear today that nothing will separate you from the love of God.

You and I are totally safe; it’s got nothing to do with us, everything to do with Him: to God be all the glory, Amen.