



By Rev. JP Lim | Romans 8:31-39

DISCUSS

The apostle Paul had to face a lot of opposition from government leaders, religious leaders, false teachers, etc. He was persecuted because of his faith. He was stoned, put on trial, imprisoned, almost died because of a shipwreck, and endured a thorn in the flesh. Yet in all these experiences, Paul remained steadfast and never faltered in his faith and thus is able to encourage others to also be prepared when troubles and affliction arise. Read Romans 8:31-39. This passage is often referenced as the climax of Paul's letter to the Romans, which primarily focused on the assurance and security of our salvation even in times of trouble and affliction.

GOD IS GRACIOUS AND PROVIDES FOR US GENEROUSLY (v. 31-32)

- What kind of tribulations or troubles do you go through in life as a Christian? How do you feel as you go through them?
- Why was Paul so confident that in spite of everything, God takes care of His people?
- How are you sure that God indeed loves you?
- Share your expectations of what God can do for you.

GOD IS FORGIVING AND PARDONS US COMPLETELY (v. 33-34)

- What is really the source of the troubles and burdens you face? Do you think that you still battle with your sinful nature every day? Why

are you still haunted by your past sins leading you to feel guilty or shameful, which hinders you to live a peaceful and joyful life?

- Why should you feel assured that God is not against you nor condemning you? What should you do so that your sins before God are no longer held against you?
- What four things in verse 34 did Paul say Christ did that should assure you that God is indeed forgiving and pardoned you completely?

GOD IS LOVING AND PURSUES US RELENTLESSLY (v. 35-39)

- What is your automatic response or reaction when you go through hard times?
- What 7 things did Paul enumerate in verse 35 that he himself experienced but was unable to spare him from the love of Christ?
- What did he (Paul) say we should know when we feel helpless in times of hardships in verse 37?
- Is there anything that can lessen the degree of God's love towards you? How do you feel that God's love is unconditional?

REFLECT

As believers, we have a very profound and deep truth that sets us apart from the world, and that is the guaranteed eternal salvation that we have in Jesus Christ. How often do you reflect on this truth? What impact has it made in your everyday life? Was it ever something that you pondered and looked back to when trying times come your way?

PRAY

Heavenly Father, thank You so much for my salvation through Jesus Christ and for the assurance and security I have in eternity because of Him. May this always remind me that if You care about my eternal life, how much more about meeting my needs in temporary troubles that I may be facing. I am thankful that You are my unchanging God and I can be secured and assured in Your loving arms. In Jesus' precious name I pray. Amen.