

He is for Us

Overview

God is sovereign in his love and care for us as his people. He is for us and has determined to bring us safely home. He is for us in our circumstances, in judgment, and in his love. His primary good for us is in making us more like his Son, Jesus Christ.

In Romans 8 we see God who, in his sovereign love and care, did everything necessary to accomplish for his people what they could not do. This is a message of hope, which I believe we need these days. Hope is a precious thing, isn't it? A human being can endure much as long as she has hope. But we tend to put our hope in the wrong things.

I invite you to join me in looking at the unseen, the one sure and certain hope we have. He never fails. He has a perfect track record. He always shows up and he is always for us. This is a message that points to our sovereign God who cares so deeply about us.

God is for us

- In our circumstances
- In the midst of judgment
- In his love

1. God is for us in our circumstances

There is absolutely nothing that is outside of God's control, nothing: Psalm 31.15; Job 42.2; Psalm 115.3; Isaiah 14.27; Isaiah 43.13; Isaiah 45.7; Isaiah 46.10; Ephesians 1.11

Our sovereign God, in his sovereign care is larger than the circumstances you face. He is not pacing the courts of heaven. He is not pulling at his hair in frustration. He is not looking at you or me and crying out "What are we going to do with Abraham?!"

No, before time even began, before there was an existence of all that we see around us, God put his covenant love and favor on you. He saw you not in reaction, but in proaction.

And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified (vs 30).

If God can do thus, then he can take any circumstance we face and turn it for good in making us like Christ even in the midst of it. He is for us.

2. God is for us in the midst of judgment

Zechariah 3.1-5

Romans 8.1 says, “Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” The accusations can and will come. For each and every one of us many are true. But as arrows bounce off of the cement wall, they cannot condemn. The charges are dropped in God’s eyes. It is not because we are sinless, but because of the sinless one, Jesus Christ. We rest in the faultless, guiltless, sinless One, Jesus Christ, who is for us and is bringing us safely home.

3. God is for us in his love

One of the tricky things about hard circumstances and guilt is that you can doubt whether or not God is for you anymore, or with you, or that he loves you. But it could not be clearer that God’s love for his people is certain. There is nothing that can wedge you from God’s love. Circumstances do not define us or our situation. God defines us. Guilt does not define us or our situation. God defines us. And one of his valuations for us is that we are loved.

Conclusion

Our hope is neither in ourselves nor our leaders, but in God alone. He is our sovereign God who brings good things out of the bad. And he cares deeply for us.

Reflection Questions

1. There are several deep theological words in this passage. How do they reveal the sovereignty of God in such a way that gives you hope?
2. God’s priority in the passage is to form us more in the likeness of Christ. Share about a hardship you walked through that God used to mature you in some way.
3. Can you articulate a difficult event in your life where you saw God bring good out of it?
4. Read Psalm 44 (which Paul quotes in Romans 8). What do you learn from the psalmist in how he talks with God in the midst of hardship?
5. What other passages come to mind that affirm God’s love for you? Take some time to reflect on those individually or as a group.
6. In what area do you need the most hope right now (in your circumstances, in any sense of judgment you feel, in resting in God’s love)? How does this passage specifically give you hope? What specific reminders can you create in the weeks ahead related to the hope you have in Christ?