

For Us and With Us

Romans 8:31-39

Introduction

When we think of Missions, these verses of Scripture are the most edifying of all (Read **Romans 8:31, 38-39**). The fact that God is for and with us in the Person of His Son, Jesus Christ, gives us peace, security, and the energy to follow Him in His mission to the world. Today, as we consider the LWML and its role in the church, we unpack what it means for God to be for and with us.

Assurance that God Is for Us

When Paul says, “*If God is for us ...*”, he is not allowing that He might *not* be for us. The word “if” could be translated “since.” The truth is “God is for us!” We know this to be true because *He did not spare His own Son for us (v. 32)*. Since He did not spare His own Son, how can we think He would *withhold any good thing from us (v. 32)*?

How He Is for Us

Why did He give up His Son, how did He do that, and what does it mean to us? **John 3:16** says: *For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life*. Because of His love, God gave His Son so we could live. Paul answers the questions of how He did it and what it means to us by telling us four things about Jesus in **verse 34**.

He Died

He died. Christ gave His life for us. (Read **2 Corinthians 5:14-15**) Paul tells us that the reason Jesus died was for us and Isaiah says that *with His wounds we are healed (Isaiah 53:5)*.

He Was Raised

But *more than that*—it wasn’t enough for Christ to die for us. His shed blood is how our sins are forgiven. But in His resurrection, His crucifixion is vindicated; God showed that He accepted the sacrifice. And because He is raised from the dead, we will live eternally (Read **1 Corinthians 15:17-20**).

He Is at the Right Hand of God

When Christ ascended, He took His place *at the right hand of God*. The right hand is the hand of blessing, the hand of power. Christ, our Lord is the Blessed One with all the power in the universe. We can trust that He will defend us with that power.

He Intercedes

The One with all that power doesn’t just rule over the earth and protect us. He *is interceding for us*. He pleads on our behalf. He has paid the price and has exchanged His righteousness for our sin that *we might become the righteousness of God (2 Corinthians 5:21)*. The Father sees us through His Son’s blood, and we are righteous in God’s sight because Christ intercedes for us.

No Matter What the World Throws at Us

With a God like that being for us, it doesn't matter what the world throws at us. *We are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered (v. 36)*. That's how the world sees us. They look at us and think we are weak—and we are. What they don't and can't see is the all-powerful Lord who loves us and cares for us.

We Are More than Conquerors

This is what makes us *more than conquerors (v. 37)*. It's not that we will not suffer in this life—we will. It's not that we won't know defeat—we will. What makes us more than conquerors is the fact that in our suffering, we are suffering with Christ. He suffered and died for us so we could suffer and die with Him. For being united with Christ in His suffering and death means we *will be united with Him in His resurrection and glory (Romans 6:5)*. That's the Great Reversal, what we have hope in and what we live for.

He Is Immanuel

We can suffer with Christ because He is *Immanuel, God with us (Matthew 1:23)*. He has promised that *He will never leave us nor forsake us (Hebrews 13:5)*. When He gave us the Great Commission, to *“go therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit ...”*, He gave us this promise: *“I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:19, 20)*.

With Us in Word and Sacrament

To give us an assurance of His presence with us, He has given us Word and Sacrament. When we receive His body and blood, we are reminded of His eternal presence, power, and protection. Let us all, with the LWML, rest in the blessed fact that **GOD IS FOR US AND WITH US** as He sends us into the world to carry on His mission of spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ to everyone.

*And the peace of God,
Which surpasses all understanding,
Will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.*
