

THE PASTOR'S MESSAGE

As I considered what I wanted to say in this newsletter to you all, my thoughts turned to this. If there is one truth that I want to leave with you all, it is that in a world full of uncertainty and trouble you can always be sure of God's love for His people.

In my very first sermon with you all I preached on Romans 8:28-39 and I feel like I've referenced this chapter of the Bible almost every Sunday since.

We live in a world where there is very little that we can be sure of, and we have seen this more clearly than ever before in the past few months. So I want to turn again to Romans 8 so that we can all be reminded of God's incredible, unshakeable, sure love for us.

I want to look at four reasons, why we can believe that God's love for His people, is something that we can count on, no matter what the circumstances we may find ourselves in.

The first reason that we can count on God's love, is because God is now for us. Verse 31 says this, *"What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?"* This means, that if you are in Christ, God is for you. And this sounds like a simple thing, but it's huge.

Romans 5:10-11 says this, *"For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation."*

Paul tells us, that we were enemies of God, but now through Jesus Christ, we

have been reconciled to Him. We're no longer His enemies, or the objects of His righteous wrath. He is for us. He is for you.

The God who created the universe. The God of Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob. The God who led the Israelites out of Egypt and established them in their land. This incredible God that we read about all throughout the Scriptures, that is the same God who is now, for you.

There are times when we're tempted to feel like God is out to get us, or that He is against us. Paul tells us that if we are in Christ, that is never the case. We can count on God's love, because God is now for us.

The second reason that we can count on God's love, is that He has already given us the most precious thing that He could ever give us, His Son. Verse 32 says, *"He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?"*

There are times in our lives when our circumstances, and our sins combine, and they lead us to question the goodness of God. We question whether or not He is going to keep His promises. We question whether He cares about us at all, or if He even knows what we are going through. In this passage Paul tells us, that we don't need to give in to these fears. God gave us His only beloved Son, while we were still His enemies, and that means, that we can trust Him, to give His children, anything else that we need to live the life that He has called us to.

If God didn't withhold His Son, why would we ever believe that He would withhold anything else that we need? We can

count on God's love, because He has already given us His beloved Son.

The third reason that we can count on God's love, is that the accomplished work of Jesus Christ on the cross, has satisfied the wrath of God. Verse 33 says, *"Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies."*

All of the wrath that should have been directed towards our sins, was poured out on Jesus Christ on the cross. And that means, that no charge can be leveled against God's people, because our punishment has already been paid by Jesus.

There are times when our adversary satan, reminds us of our past sins, or tells us that God will never forgive us. There are times when our own sins accuse us, and tell us that God could never love someone like us. Well, because of the work of Jesus Christ, we can say with John Newton, "I may my fierce accuser face, and tell him that thou hast died."

When we're confronted with our sinfulness. We don't have to try to explain that, "yes we sin, but we also do alot of good things too." We don't have to try to excuse our sin, or try to explain it away. We can say, "you know what, I'm probably worse than what you accuse me to be, but I'm not judged on what I have done, but on what Jesus Christ has done for me."

When Paul asks this question in verse 33, *"Who shall bring any charge against God's elect?"* It is God who justifies. It's as if He is standing in the courtroom, and anticipating the charges that will be

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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3 Wed. Prayer & Study: 6:15pm (via Zoom) B-day: Beth Niehoff	4 B-day: Eliza Kate Gill Anniv: Ryan & Kami Basinger	5	6
7 Worship: 11am (in sanctuary and via Zoom) Congregational Meeting: immediately following the worship service	8 B-day: Claire Mackin	9	10 Wed. Prayer & Study: 6:15pm (via Zoom)	11	12	13
14 Flag Day Bryant Family Last Day with FPC Diaconate Meeting: 8am Worship: 11am (in sanctuary and via Zoom)	15 B-day: Jimmy Mackin	16 B-day: Amanda Bryant	17 Wed. Prayer & Study: 6:15pm (via Zoom)	18	19 B-day: Moses McNutt	20 First Day of Summer
21 Father's Day Worship: 11am (in sanctuary and via Zoom) Fellowship Luncheon (TBD) Session Meeting: 4:30pm	22	23	24 Wed. Prayer & Study: 6:15pm (via Zoom)	25	26	27 B-day: Mills Thomas McClure Anniv: Trey & Chonda Griffith
28 Worship: 11am (in sanctuary and via Zoom) B-day: Hannah Mackin B-day: Ann Resto	29 B-day: Karen Lashley B-day: Jackie Tripp B-day: Grey Tripp Anniv: Joe and Laura Morgan	30 B-day: Katy Basinger				

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR JUNE

DEACONS OF THE MONTH: Trey Griffith and Mike Cork.

FOOD MINISTRY LEADER OF THE MONTH: Nadine Coddington.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

There will be a Congregational Meeting on June 7th immediately following the worship service to vote on accepting Rev. Jeff Bryant's letter of resignation to allow Jeff to accept the position of Assistant Pastor of Families and Children at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Rock Hill, SC.

<u>2020</u>	<u>APRIL</u>	<u>2020 YTD</u>
Gen. Fund Contributions	\$ 9,542.31	\$ 34,013.86
Gen. Fund Expenses	\$ 8,282.92	\$ 35,117.75
Net Gain (Loss)	\$ 1,259.39	\$ (1,103.89)
<u>2019</u>	<u>APRIL</u>	<u>2019 YTD</u>
Gen. Fund Contributions	\$ 6,595.00	\$ 33,182.27
Gen. Fund Expenses	\$ 10,666.78	\$ 40,424.94
Net Gain (Loss)	\$ (4,071.78)	\$ (7,242.67)

RECURRING WEEKLY EVENTS

- **Sunday Worship:** 11:00 am, in the sanctuary and via Zoom. (Fellowship Time, 10:20am)
- **Wednesday Study and Prayer Time:** 6:15 pm via Zoom.

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brought against his client, and as each charge is leveled, instead of attempting to make a defense based on what we have or haven't done, He points straight back to the cross of Christ. No charge can be brought against us, because we are counted as righteous in Christ. And if God, the creator and ruler of the entire universe has declared you righteous, who else is there to fear? Yes we are guilty of sins, but by God's grace, He has made a way for us to be made right with Him.

And He has done this by sacrificing His own Son, so that we can be forgiven, and He's done all of this because He loves His people. God's love for His people, can be counted on, no matter what our circumstances may be, because the finished work of Christ on the cross, has satisfied the wrath of God against our sins.

The fourth reason that we can count on God's love, is the ongoing work of Jesus Christ as our intercessor. When Paul says, Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

He's telling us, that Jesus is right now, at the right hand of the Father interceding for us. We can count on God's love, because Jesus is reminding the Father that our sins have been paid for on the cross. Francis Schaeffer says this about the work of Jesus as our intercessor, he says, "As Jesus pleads our case before this holy God, the very holiness of God now

He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers.♥

MALACHI 4:6

works for us. The holiness of God that must condemn us because we have sinned against Him, now works on our behalf. For Jesus pleads His shed blood, and God the Father, because of His holiness and His perfect justice, cannot ask any second payment for our sins. Jesus pleads for us on the basis of the complete forgiveness He has won for us at Calvary." (pause)

Every day you and I sin, and every day Jesus stands before His Father and says I know that they have sinned, but they are mine, they are covered by my blood, and they have been forgiven.

We can count on God's love, because not only, can the circumstances of life fail to separate us from God's love, but neither can the sins of those who have placed their trust in Him. Jesus, our great high priest, stands before the throne, and intercedes for us, so that we can enter God's presence with confidence.

In a world of uncertainty and troubles I'm thankful that we can entrust one another to the sure love of God. We love y'all.

- Grace and Peace
Jeff

BLESSED IS THE MAN WHO TRUSTS IN THE LORD WHOSE CONFIDENCE IS IN HIM
JEREMIAH 17:7

HAVE YOU TALKED TO GOD TODAY?

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR FAITH PROMISE MISSIONARIES

Robert & Lisa Stewart	Mission to the World — Japan
Andy & Bev Warren	Mission to the World — Ethiopia
Doug McNutt	Trinity Center for World Missions — Central Africa Evangelist
Aaron & Leticia Zapata	Mission to North America — Mexico
Chaplain Ministry	Mission to North America
Jimmy & Nadia Dukes	Reformed Evangelistic Fellowship — Peru
Beth Acton	Wycliffe Bible Translators — Papua New Guinea
Joy Ayabe	Wycliffe Bible Translators — Papua New Guinea
Clete Hux	Apologetics Resource Center — Birmingham, AL
Jonah & Jennifer	Frontiers — Undisclosed Muslim Country
General Support	Sav-A-Life Pregnancy Resource Center — Demopolis, AL
General Support	Palmer Home for Children — Hernando, MS

HOOKED ON PRAYER (HOP):

Allinder, Ike	Gardner, David & Christy	McIntier, Jodie
Allinder, Kate	Harstad, Paula	Miller, Tommie
Bazuin, Caiden	Hart, Sarah Elizabeth	Morgan, Laura
Beeler, Peggy	Haubert, Chloe Belle	Mutisya, Cecilia
Belcher, Samuel	Hayes, Betsy	Parr, Higley
Brantley, Maggie	Hocker, Jeannie	Pickerill, Paula
Brooker, Chrissy	Hogg, Ian	Plummer, Kaegan
Brooker, Jan	Hoggle, Judy	Reynolds, Christy
Bryant, Jessica	Holman, Joann	Sakon, Ethan
Burkett, Holly	Hooks, Chesnee	Sall, Terry
Busby, Rhae	Husbands, Jennie	Segura, Chris
Bynum, Linda	Hux, Karen	Sharp, Chris
Coker, Jean	Ivy, Kendall	Sims, Anna Katherine
Collins, Brandon	Jennifer (Missionary)	Sims, Sarah
Cook, Patricia	Jowers, Cap & Patty	Spree, Thed
Craig, Noah	Jowers, Johnny	Taylor, Marie
Curry, Walter	Jowers, Walter	TenHaaf, WM
Dale, Kelly	Keasler, Jo Anne	Thornton, Alaina
Daughtery, Jody	Kelly, Dale	VanderMolen, Popko
Davidson, Karen	King, Jessie	Witherspoon, Mary Stewart
DeWitt, Robert	Lane, Barbara	Womble, Caleb
Duncan, Conner	Leascher, Chad	Wright, Hettie
Dunning, Norbourne	Lessman, Linus	
Dyer, Doug	Lewis, Kathy	
Eshee, Judy	Ligon, Brandon	
Farst, Sharon	Lockett, Joanne	
Finley, Betty	McCraw, Beverly	

OTHER PRAYER REQUESTS

Cancer:

Jody Daugherty
 Luke (Jonah's son)
 Kaleigh Craig
 Scott Kirkpatrick
 Heather Wilson
 Maggie Brantley
 Kendall Ivy
 Rick Wilson

Illness:

Ian Hogg
 Laura Morgan
 Neal Bules
 David Headley
 Allen Hammond

Special Needs:

Liz Bond
 Sarah Elizabeth Hart
 Frank Ramey
 Viola Cook
 William R. Horton
 Baby Oliver Sullivan
 Francis Mahaffey
 The Hutton Family

Military Personnel:

Chaplain William Broderick
 Sam Brasfield
 Steven Mackin
 Victor Resto
 Joseph Wilson
 Josh Tyson
 Blake Ivy

Expectant Mothers:

Amanda Bryant
 Katie Gill
 Janie Basinger

If you know anyone who needs to be added or taken off any of these lists, please provide Ann Resto with the information to keep the prayer lists current.

