

Life Group Notes
Sunday 15th August

Title: More than Conquerors Part 2

Passage: Romans 8:33-39

We concluded our journey through Romans 6, 7 and 8 on Sunday looking at 2 more foundational security stones set down by Paul to help us and give us assurance of our God in times of trouble.

The two stones this week were:

God justifies us – again Paul sets this out as a question: who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? In this we have another literal/ultimate question. We know that literally we do face charges – at home, at work, in our relationships. We are blamed for things, we are accused of things and we are criticized. We also face charges that we put up against ourselves when we put ourselves down and tell ourselves that we cannot do something or that we are unattractive etc. We also face charges from Satan himself, lying to us and bringing us down. We also charge others in the course of a week – we can be critical, accusatory, complaining and moany, making life difficult for those around us.

Ultimately though we have been told that we are justified, that we are not guilty, that when we stand before Jesus on that final day, no charges will stick on us, we will be declared Not Guilty – it's sealed and done. The wonder the glory, the magnificence of the words 'God justifies us' should bring us great peace because the ultimate fulfilment of this verse is in the future, but because of that future we can today live in the good of them.

God Intercedes For Us – We can be assured of our justification because Christ died and rose again as we are told in verse 34, but there is an even greater statement that causes Paul to say; who can separate us from the love of God? And then all the things that he says in verses 37-39. That statement is that Christ is interceding for us. He is standing on our behalf in the heavenly realms after declaring that it is finished and he is representing us in the fact that he is victorious and in him we have victory – over sin, over death, over charges, over anyone or any circumstances that are against us. In one sense Christ's work is complete in the fact that we are now justified, we have our freedom in Christ and that was bought at the cross through his blood. However, in another, because we remain hidden in Him and our ongoing process of becoming more like Jesus goes on, his work continues.

This truth enables us to come to the throne of grace with confidence as we are invited to do in Hebrews chapter 4. We can come knowing that when we repent we will be forgiven that when we pray we are heard, we might not get the answer we want but we are heard. This truth is immense because it gives us complete security and we read about this security in the final verses which we read together.

Paul, in these verses has given us four foundational security stones that when grasped can gird us and carry us through the darkest of times – God is for us, God gives us all things, God justifies us and God intercedes for us.

Suggested questions:

- 1) What did God speak to you about on Sunday?
- 2) What charges do you face and how does knowing you are justified by God help you in that circumstance?
- 3) What does coming confidently to the throne of grace look like and how is it possible for us to do this?

Action: Pray for each other that each would have a growing understanding of each of these four foundational security stones, only the Spirit can help us to receive them as true and as assurances so start by praying for the Spirit to help and then get specific if appropriate.