

**Reading Family Church**  
**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> August 2010**

**Title:** More than Conquerors Part One

**Passage:** Romans 8:28-32

We continued in our journey through Romans 8 this week focusing on two verses. Before we looked at the two headings we first considered the wonder of what Paul is referring to when he says "what then shall we say in response to this?"

We saw this is indeed a very valid question when we consider the 'this' that he is talking about. The fact that: when we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5v8); we no longer live under the mantle and control of sin, but now live under the Lordship of Christ; we no longer live under the cruel husband of the law, but under the authority and love of the husband of the church, Jesus; we have the Spirit living within us helping us to know that our salvation is secure so secure that we are co heirs with Christ. It's incredible truth and should leave us asking what can we say in response to this, other than maybe WOW. However Paul does have an answer and it is the first point:

**God is For Us v 31:** Although framed in a question this is in essence what Paul is saying – God is For us and therefore no one can be against us. This God who is all powerful, all knowing, ever present, creative, loving, merciful, just, jealous, holy, righteous, perfect God. The one who punishes sinfulness justifiably as it is in fact the folly of man to set themselves up as God. The one who has seen our sinful rebellion against Him, says I am for you. Not just when times are going well, but also when we are struggling to believe this truth. Just because we don't see it, it doesn't make it any less true!

When Paul says here that no one can stand against us he isn't meaning literally because even Jesus said that people would hate us because of Him. However he does mean ultimately. Rom 8 v 28- 'we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him.' We know that bad things happen to Christians, and there is hurt and pain caused by our own sin, by others or by Satan, and we do know that we live in the consequences of that but ultimately, as Sean said last week, God takes this pain, this suffering, this sickness, and uses it to bring us more into the likeness of his son Jesus. He takes what was meant for evil and uses it for good, even when we live in the consequences of that evil. In that reasoning, then no one can be against us because as he has said God is for us!

**God gives us all things v 32:** Before we looked at 'all things' we first looked at the first statement in verse 32. The fact that God did not spare his own son should never cease to amaze us. It should always stop us in our tracks when we consider the enormity of what is said – The Father sent his Son to die for us – he gave his own to purchase us as his own – it's absolutely incredible. It's against this background that Paul tells us that we should therefore trust God to give us all things.

Not a long wish list of things that we desire, but the good things that we need when we need them. He gives us the planet on which we live, the life that we live and the death that leads us ultimately into his presence for eternity. We have been given all things: a restored relationship with God the Father, through the death and resurrection of His Son Jesus and the now indwelling Spirit that allows us to cry ABBA Father. We have been given all spiritual blessings according to Paul in Ephesians, so in Christ as we are hidden in him we have been given all things already!

We have also been given our place in eternity assured and put aside for us ready for that day when we embrace death full of faith and anticipation of the life lived in the presence and glory of God himself.

#### Suggested questions

1. What has grabbed you again about the truth that these verses speak?
2. What was the application from Sunday of these verses?
3. How have you or will you endeavour to let these verses seep into your minds and hearts?
4. If these truths do not excite you what does?