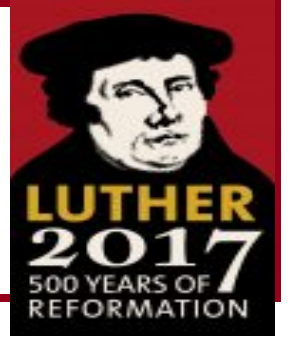


No Fear! No Worry! No Stress!

Psalm 44:1-8 Rom 8:31-39 1 John 2:1-2 John 8:2-11

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This summer we have seen that the book of Romans is **full of comfort** for us! It teaches us that:

- † **Salvation** is God's work not ours; the Gospel is God's power to save us!
- † You are **Righteous** in God's eyes through faith in Christ! In His death and resurrection, you are declared "not guilty!" of your sins! That "not guilty" verdict is righteousness and justification.
- † You are **holy** in God's eyes; Jesus' perfect life is "credited" to you through faith, and God considers you holy!
- † You live each day in **peace** with God, with whom you have direct access in prayer, and the certain hope of the resurrection of the dead on the Last Day!
- † In **Holy Baptism**, you belong to God, are immersed into Christ's death and a partaker of Christ's life. All things that you need for your eternal welfare have been given to you!
- † Jesus **frees us** from our past failures so that we now depend on Christ and His strength to accomplish His will in our lives
- † Even in the midst of **suffering** we patiently endure; we have hope, the Holy Spirit, and the goodness of God
- † **God's love and care** for you is so grand and so sweeping that it began before the creation of the world and extends into eternity in heaven.

God's **OVERWHELMING COMFORT** comes to a **crescendo** in Romans chapter 8 with these words:

If God is for us, who can be against us?

It's a rhetorical question: nothing and no one can be against us and succeed!

We live our lives by faith in our Savior Jesus Christ — it means that we trust His words and promises, and they give us **strength and stability** as we live each day. *Faith drives out fear, worry and stress!*

If God is for us, who can be against us?

Nothing can stand between you and God. His love and care for you is certain, it is constant; it is never changing.

If God is for you, who can be against you?

In the Book of Romans, St. Paul teaches us that we can live **without fear, without worry and without stress** because of two key truths. He highlights two ways that God is "**for us**" and not against us.

First, you have no FEAR OF CONDEMNATION on Judgment Day.

Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who then is the one who condemns? NO ONE. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. ROMANS 8:33-34

This is legal, courtroom language again. It is the main way that Paul teaches the Gospel in the book of Romans. The word picture is that someone is accusing you of sin – *bringing a formal charge against you of breaking the Law of God in God's courtroom*. It could be Satan, the “*accuser*”; it could be the Law of God –the Ten Commandments --which you have broken in many and various ways, or it might be your own guilty conscience.

There is certainly plenty of evidence against us --- for we all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. We all break God's Law – the Ten Commandments – every day in many ways. Everyone of us is unrighteous and ungodly: we deserve to be condemned and face the dreadful punishment for our sin. **The evidence against us is overwhelming.**

BUT YOU WILL NOT BE CONDEMNED AND FACE PUNISHMENT!

- Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who then is the one who condemns? **NO ONE.** ROMANS 8:33
- There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ROMANS 8:1
- If anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 1 JOHN 2:1-2

In this courtroom word picture, Jesus stands up for you as your “**defense lawyer**”; and God the Father declares you not guilty of your sins: ***He justifies you. You are absolved! You are righteous in His sight!***

Every accusation of sin against you fell on Jesus, and ***He died, He was raised to life, He is at the right hand of God; and He is interceding for you!*** Jesus took your place in God's courtroom, and every accusation, charge, and verdict fell on Him. Jesus was arrested, handcuffed, tried, and led out to Calvary to pay for your sins when He died on the cross. **Every single sin you commit is answered and paid for by Jesus.** He was arrested, tried, condemned and punished for you and your sins.

On the **Last Day**, when you stand before God in His courtroom on **Judgement Day**, there will be **NO ACCUSATIONS** of sin against you. On Judgement Day, when your name is called, it will be dead quiet. No one will accuse you of sin. The verdict you will hear is the verdict you have been hearing all your life in absolution: **YOUR SINS ARE FORGIVEN** in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit! You will hear the same words the woman caught in adultery heard in the gospel lesson for today: ***“Where are your accusers? Has no one condemned you?” “No one, sir,” the woman said. Jesus declared: “Then neither do I condemn you!”***

Through faith in Christ, there are no accusations against you; no condemnation, no “guilty” verdicts, no punishment. It is a powerful word picture of salvation and the work of Christ on your behalf!

If God is for us, who can be against us on Judgment Day?
NO ONE!

So we trust God's Word and live our lives in faith with
No Fear; No Worry; No Stress!

The book of Romans also teaches us that since there is NO CONDEMNATION against us there is also NO SEPARATION between us and God.

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? . . . For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. ROMANS 8:35,38-39

We live our lives in God's presence, under His care, by His protection, and in His power --- **no matter what might happen.**

- † In all the changes of life, **God's love remains firm, strong and secure: NOTHING CAN SEPARATE YOU FROM GOD AND HIS LOVE!**
- † In the midst of all kinds of pain, danger, and hardships, **God's love remains firm, strong and secure: NOTHING CAN SEPARATE YOU FROM GOD AND HIS LOVE!**
- † Even if the worst case scenario should happen to you, **God's love remains firm, strong and secure: NOTHING CAN SEPARATE YOU FROM GOD AND HIS LOVE!**

Another way to think about this is that there is **NOTHING** that can **disrupt your relationship** with God through Christ.

- † Regardless of how you might **feel** at any given time,
- † regardless of the **circumstances** of your life,
- † regardless of the **danger or persecution** you may face
- † regardless of the **pain, temptations, or tribulations** you run into;

Not even Satan and all the dark forces of evil from the Abyss can separate you from God's love! **NOTHING** that can **disrupt** your relationship with God through Christ the Savior! Nothing can separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord!

The danger is not from outside you; the danger is from within. The only way you can lose your faith is if you **FORFEIT IT YOURSELF**. **The danger is apostasy – that you yourself choose to fall away from Christ.**

- † It happens when you get apathetic;
 - when you get lazy in the faith;
 - when you get distracted with things of the world.
- † It happens when you blame God for the painful things in your life;
 - you accuse Him of evil and treating you unfairly.

Paul here presents one of the most powerful affirmations in Scripture of the certainty of salvation. Once again the message is pure, sweet, precious gospel directed to humble believers who are struggling to survive in a hostile world. God's love will not fail. There is no barrier that can divide us from the love of God in Christ.

Romans, D. L. White, p.354

- † It happens when you stop living your life in continual, heartfelt repentance and faith.
- † It happens when you deceive yourself into thinking you can live in unrepentant sin, and that God won't care
- † It happens when you turn your back on Christ, and harden your heart towards God and his word.

When these things happen, then you are falling away, and a time will come when you will have forfeited your faith.

Don't let that happen to you! Repent of your sins and any anger you have towards God or apathy you have in your Christian faith and life! Don't turn away from Christ and His word, but draw near to Him and His word. Don't harden your heart towards God and His word, but hold Him sacred and gladly hear and learn His Holy word. Trust Christ and His gift of righteousness.

**Be VERY INTENTIONAL and EXTREMELY SERIOUS
about your Christian faith and life!**

The danger of losing your faith and falling away from God is not from the outside, it's from the inside: **Don't forfeit your faith!**

In Romans 8, St. Paul uses words of emphasis to encourage and strengthen our faith:

**I have been convinced and I remain convinced
that nothing will be able to separate US from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

They are words of **CONVICTION**. They are words of **CERTAINTY**. Those are intentional and serious words of **TRUST**. They are bold and courageous words of **FAITH**. You can say these same words:

**I have been convinced and I remain convinced
that nothing will be able to separate ME from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus my Lord.**

We live our lives by faith in our Savior --- it means that we trust His Words and Promises and they give us **strength and stability** as we live each day. Faith drives out fear, worry and stress!

*If God is for us, who can be against us?
If God is for us, who can bring any charge against us?
If God is for us, who can separate us
from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord?*

The answer to all these is ...

NO ONE and NOTHING!