



Paul's Pep Talk (Romans 8:31-39)

Romans 8:31-34

³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

³² 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?

³³ Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.

³⁴ 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.

Romans 8:35-39

³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?

³⁶ As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all the day long;
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷ **No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.**

³⁸ For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers,

³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Introduction: On Sports and Pep Talks

- **What Pep Talks Do . . .**
- Builds Confidence: We can win!
- Provides Reasons: Why we can win
- Energizes the Players: Let's go win!

Paul Builds Confidence

- **Key Verse:**
- "In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us" (Romans 8:37)

"hypernikomen" (Greek): "super conquerors"

Paul Provides Reasons/Main Points:

1. Against God, there is no real competition (Romans 8:31)

- ³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? (Romans 8:31)
- **One Creator/One “Standard”**
- Our real choice is not “God or the enemy,” but “With-God or Not-with-God”
- ¹¹ And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹² Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. (1 John 5:11-12).

Paul Provides Reasons/Main Points:

2. God gave the best; He will also give the rest (Romans 8:32)

³² 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? (Romans 8:32)

- **God Gave the Best:**

- ⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, (Philippians 4:9-10)

- **God Gives the Rest:**

- ³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. (Matthew 6:33)

Paul Provides Reasons/Main Points:

3. God has already decided the outcome (Romans 8:33)

- ³³ Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies (Romans 8:33)
- **“Justified”**: our sin-ledger has been wiped clean
- ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified (Romans 8:30).
- **Justification**: “a sinner is justified (pardoned from the punishment and condemnation of sin) and brought into relationship with God by faith in God’s grace alone” (*Pocket Dictionary of Theological Terms*)
- **No “double jeopardy”**

Paul Provides Reasons/Main Points:

3. God has already decided the outcome (Romans 8:33)

- **God's will is unalterable:**
- ⁷ “And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: ‘The words of the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens’ (Revelation 3:7)

Paul Provides Reasons/Main Points:

4. God sets the rules, we don't (Romans 8:34)

- ³⁴ 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 (Romans 8:34)
- **Only Jesus is qualified to judge, yet he intercedes for us instead:**
- ¹⁴ Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things . . . ¹⁷ Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. (Hebrews 2:14,17)

Paul Provides Reasons/Main Points:

5. God's assurance of our salvation (Romans 8:35-39)

- ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?
- ³⁶ As it is written,
“For your sake we are being killed all the day long;
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.” (Psalm 44:22)
- ³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.
- ³⁸ For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers,
• ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Paul Provides Reasons/Main Points:

5. God's assurance of our salvation (Romans 8:35-39)

- ²⁷ My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand (John 10:27-28)

Paul Provides Reasons/Main Points:

6. Victory is ours only by God's love for us through Jesus Christ

- ³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us (Romans 8:37)
- ¹⁶ “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16)
- ⁴ Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing (John 15:4-5)

Takeaway:

Live victoriously!

"I Can Do All Things Through Christ who Strengthens Me"
(Philippians 4:13)

²⁴ Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. (1 Cor. 9:24)





Keep Your Eyes on the (Real) Prize

- ⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith (2 Timothy 4:7)
- ¹⁰ let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth . . . there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men and women by which we must be saved (Acts 4:10a, 12)



Let Us Pray

A photograph of two hands raised in prayer, holding a glowing white cross. The hands are silhouetted against a bright, golden sunset sky with clouds. The sun is visible through the cross, creating a lens flare effect. The background shows a horizon line over water.