

**March 31, 2020**

**Speaker:** Eric Naus **Series:** This I Believe – The Book of Romans

**Passage:** Romans 8:31-39

Community Group Questions: “When God Is For Us”

Read Romans 8:31-39 aloud as a group. And then work through the following questions:

1. This passage comes on the tail end of Paul’s larger discussion of the Christian’s hope in the midst of the “sufferings of this present time” (v. 18). What fears and trails have you and your family been facing in the last few weeks during the Coronavirus pandemic? How does this passage uniquely encourage you in the midst of these challenges?
2. Verse 31 asks the rhetorical question, “If God is for us, who can be against us?” The obvious answer is that no one and nothing can effectively stand against those who have God on their side. According to the many points Paul has made throughout Romans 8, how can a person be sure that God is “for them”? In your life as a Christian, how does knowing that God is “for you” give you strength to face any challenge he allows?
3. Verse 32 makes an argument from “greater to lesser:” if God did the “greater thing” by giving up his beloved Son for us on the cross, why wouldn’t he also do the “lesser thing” and give us everything we need on our journey all the way to glory? How does a clear-eyed view of the cross put the rest of our suffering in perspective?
4. Verses 33-34 bring in the imagery of a court of law. God the Father is the judge, and Jesus Christ is the advocate. The believer is “on trial,” being accused and condemned by Satan and people all around them. In the face of such accusations, God’s voice declares us to be “justified”! And Christ, who has died, risen, ascended, now prays for us! How should this theology help us when we hear those accusing voices from colleagues and friends, from society and culture, from Satan and spiritual attack, and even from condemning voices inside our own head?
5. Verses 35-39 makes one central point: nothing and no one can separate God’s people from his love for them in Christ. What things or situations tempt you to believe that God may have stopped loving you? How do these verses help you with precisely those things?

Prayer suggestion: Spend time praying for one another and the tremendous challenges we’re facing individually, as a society, and globally. Pray for confidence in the face of it all with God’s strength. Pray for a heightened sense of security in the love of Christ.