

TRIUMPHANT LIVING

Taught by Don Maurer

Session: January 25, 2013

Brothers, I come to you in fear and trembling, in fact...Sig....here, you can read this if you want, right? OK...{LAUGHTER} I just wanted to say also before we begin; I apologize...I brought my Armenian watch this morning. It is not dead, the battery is not completely dead but it is not completely well either. It is rather sick. Listen to...I do not know if you can hear it, but.....6:46 a.m.; I have a friend who said, "Well, that's a good thing if it is an Armenian watch...it can choose to fix itself." {LAUGHTER}

Also, a couple of you who were not here last week did not get the full impact. Bruce told the story of a PCA church, unfortunately the denomination that I belong to, that had a worship service and the pastor had a Santa Claus hat. Do not tell Bruce, but I was going to bring a Santa Claus hat this morning so....OK. {LAUGHTER}

Brothers, let's come before God's throne.

Oh, Heavenly Father, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we come to you this morning, Father, knowing that it is only, only, through the person and work of your only begotten Son that we can even approach your throne. For we know, Father, that we are sinners and we know that we are unfit to be in your presence for you are Holy, Holy, Holy, and we are not. But we praise you, Lord, that because of the work of Christ and those of us, Lord, who are in you, we are counted as righteous for your sake and we thank you that we are clothed in that righteousness. Oh, Father, we just pray, Lord, that for the next few minutes we can come and just bask in your presence, Lord Jesus. As I tackle this topic, Father, I pray you would just help me to say only what your Word teaches, and if there is anything that I might say that is amiss, Lord, that you would nullify it and only your truth would shine today. We thank you for the new men who are here and we thank you for everyone who is here. We pray, Father, for our brother, Bruce, in whatever endeavors he is involved in today. We pray it all in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Well, last week Bruce wanted me to....he asked if I could teach on the topic of the sufficiency of Christ, and I gulped and I swallowed and I said, "How in the world do I teach an all-encompassing topic like that?" So I said that I would try to tackle it and I know that I will only scratch the surface, as always questions and comments are welcome. You have some Scriptures on your handout and I will ask someone...I don't want to put anyone on the spot...if someone at the appropriate time would read a Scripture that is from the handout, that would be good and any questions or comments will be fine.

Now as I pondered this, I thought...I wanted to just talk about the sufficiency of Christ in four different areas of our lives, really from the beginning to the end of our Christian life. The springboard and the premise are two very important Scriptures that I have written down, and I think the first one is...what is the first one...I can't read my own writing. Yes, 2nd Corinthians, Chapter 3, and I believe it is verses 3 through and 5.

Would someone please read for us? “Such confidence we have through Christ towards God, not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God.”

Yes, OK. We need to remember that because we men think many times that we have it all together don't we? But sometimes Christ has to just hit us over the head, as it were, to help us remember that we don't and that we are nothing without Him.

Also, I believe Colossians 2, verses nine and ten. Who would like to read that for us? “For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily, and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.” Boy that is an awesome thought isn't it. That our Jesus, the one who is the second person of the Trinity who became man, born in Bethlehem, crucified, raised from the dead, who lived in Nazareth, is the one who is the head of all principalities and powers. So let us remember that....what I wanted to talk about today is that Christ is sufficient for our justification, for our daily walk in the power of the Spirit, for the trials, difficulties and tribulations that come our way; and last, but certainly not least, our glorification.

First of all, our justification. Would someone read Romans 8, verses 1 through 4, please. “There is, therefore, now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit, for the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus, who has made me free from the law of sin and death. But what the law could not do in that it is weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son, in the likeness of sinful flesh on account of sin. He condemned sin in the flesh that the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.” Thank you.

Now, I'm not going to go through all of this passage exhaustively, but just really focusing on the first few words there. If I am allowed to have favorite passages in Scripture, this has to be one of them in Romans 8. And I realize it is bad to start with a passage that says, “Therefore” because what does Bruce always say, “What is the ‘therefore’....there for?” But I can't help it. This has to be the best news that anyone could hear. It is, indeed, Good News...it's the Gospel, isn't it? Right now, not just in the future, not just when we die, but **now** there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. What an incredible consolation, all because of the work of Christ; to know that when you lie down on your pillow at night and in God's providence if you don't wake up, that you have no condemnation, and that you pass from death to life; that you will be with the Lord forever in glory. And we can have this peace and assurance right now, it is a present reality.

Now, there are Christians who do not have the assurance and that does not mean that they are not Christians, it just means that for whatever reason God has not seen fit to give them that grace of assurance. But, what a blessed, blessed thing this is, that there is no condemnation right now for those of us who are in Christ Jesus. How can this be? This is what Bruce always asks...how can this be when previously in the 7th Chapter, Paul laments his sinful condition even as a believer. You know, there are people....a division...many people believe that Paul in Romans 7, is talking about his condition before he was a Christian and all I can say is if that is true, that fills me with great despair because all of us know that we sin daily, even hourly.

None of us have loved the Lord our God with our whole heart, soul, strength and mind since we got out of bed this morning. So the idea that this is Paul before he was saved is a very troubling doctrine to me.

As a matter of fact, there was a man who was candidating to be the pastor at my church a number of years ago and he held this view. He actually did; there are some people even some reformed people who do hold this view. Several months later, I found out that he had committed suicide. Now, I do not know whether it was because he held to this doctrine had anything to do with it, but I will tell you what—that would not give me comfort.

This is Paul as a believer and we can all identify with that, can't we? We can all identify with the struggle with the war that goes on between the flesh and the spirit; and yet, there is now no condemnation because of the work of Christ. How can this be? We are justified. What does it mean to be justified? It does not mean just as though I've never sinned, it's far more than that. We are actually declared to be not just innocent, but we are declared to be righteous, having the perfect obedience of Christ credited to our account. That's a word called "imputation." You've heard it before. It's a very, very important word in our lives. Stamp it on your heart, etch it on your heart.

Our sin and our guilt were imputed to Christ on the Cross, and because of His righteousness and His perfect life of obedience, we now have credit because of his work. He is all sufficient in these things. It's kind of like what King David said in Psalm 32, "Blessed is the man whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin." Our Lord said it Himself, didn't He? "He who believes in me..." And Bruce is always fond of saying, but we...you can ... talk about the acrostic *depend upon, adhere to, rely upon, and trust*. That's what it means to believe in Christ. Not just mental ascent but all those elements. "But he who believes in Me has eternal life, he shall not come into condemnation but he has passed from death to life." Christ did not say whoever believes in Me **might** have eternal life if he is good enough for whatever, but He says, "**has** eternal life." OK.

He has done this for us. Oh, praise his name. One of the benefits....another way of saying it is: Romans 5, verse 1. Does someone have that to read for us? "Therefore, if we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God, through our Lord Jesus Christ." We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, and Christ is sufficient because In Ephesians 2, verse 16 it says, "He is our peace." We all know the fragile peace of this world, don't we? You know, no sooner in the Middle East are there peace treaties but how long has that been going on? Time in memorial...there are peace treaties and then a couple of days later, war breaks out. I heard on the news yesterday that in North Korea, they are trying to do some nuclear tests and want to aim missiles at our country and that kind of thing, and so peace is a fragile thing in this world. But not so with the peace that Christ gives, this is an eternal peace, it is a permanent peace. It's something where the sword, or the guns, or the artillery will never be fired at us again. Now I don't mean to make light of sin, we're not to grieve the Holy Spirit, we know that when we sin, God's discipline or chastisement will come upon us. There aren't too many people more miserable in the world...I think all of us have experienced that to one degree or another; when we sin God does chastise us...whether it be guilt, whether it be consequences...when we sin God does discipline us but He will never, ever, ever cast us off. He gives us the assurance of His eternal love for us in Christ.

You know, Paul goes about in Chapter 7 lamenting his struggle with sin, but what does he say in verse 25 of that chapter: "Thanks be to God." After saying, "Oh, wretched man that I am, who will deliver me from

this body of sin and death? The good that I want to do, I don't do, the evil that I don't want to do, I keep on doing. Who will deliver me?" But he says, "Thanks be to God, through my own strength, or through something in me?" No. Through our Lord Jesus Christ. It is a done deal.

He is our peace. What the law could not do...our passage says, because of our flesh...and the NIV translates that to sinful nature....I think that is what that means...God did it by sending His Son in the likeness of sinful flesh. We know that Christ was not a sinner, He was sinless, but He came in our likeness as a man. Isn't that wonderful to know? The reason that Christ is sufficient for our justification is because He came as a man, suffered as a man, suffered our punishment in our place as a man. And so He knows....and I'll be talking about this in a few minutes...He knows what trials and sufferings and pain you go through because He experienced those things. So we can just praise His name because He did this by sending His Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and that the righteous requirements of the law might be met in Christ.

Now there are certainly practical implications of this; you know we all have those sins in our lives that the Puritans called our precisian. And Satan is very good when we sin at saying, "Are you sure you're a Christian?" After all, he's called the accuser of the brethren, is he not? "Are you sure you're a Christian? You couldn't be a Christian...look you've done that again and you thought that thought again. How could that thought enter your mind and you say you're a Christian?" But because of Christ there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Of course, the opposite is true for those who are not... you know...God does say that those who are not in Christ Jesus...in Psalm 7, verse 11, the Word of God says that He is angry with the wicked every day. So we have to keep that in mind. I believe it was Henry David Thoreau...his aunt said to him once, "David be reconciled to God" and Henry David said, "But, but I, I, I'm not at war with Him." Well, the Bible teaches differently. But if we are in Christ, we are at peace with Him forever and there is no condemnation. Anyone have any further observations, questions or comments before we go on to the next section? OK, Amen, in deed. OK.

Number 3 on your handout. Christ is sufficient for our daily walk in Him by the power of the Spirit.

Number 1. Christ is sufficient for our growth and righteousness and holiness without [UNCLEAR] which no one will see the Lord. In other words, our sanctification. I know that some of us here have slight disagreements on how that works itself out in our life; but we all can agree and those who disagree with me...we're brothers...and that's wonderful, but we can all agree that Christ will see us through in our daily walk and our sanctification, and not only in our sanctification but in other phases of our lives and I'm going to talk about that in a few minutes.

Our sanctification and being in glory eventually, is assured. Let's look up a couple of Scriptures here. 1st Corinthians, Chapter 1, verses 7 through 9. "So that you come short in no way, eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will also confirm you to the end, that you may be blameless in the sight of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord." God is faithful. OK. He will confirm us to the end. I read those passages sometimes in Matthew 24...for example...or 25, where Christ says, "He who endures to the end will be saved, we speak of the perseverance of the saints." In other words, we persevere, we are involved in a never-ending struggle against sin but we keep on keeping on don't we? But we do it because Christ preserves us.

He will see us to the end. It is not as if we are going through this thing by ourselves, heaven forbid if we did, none of us...we would be toast in a nano second; but Christ confirms us to the end. That is a wonderful thing, and we endure because of Him. That is just a tremendous, tremendous passage of Scripture to meditate upon.

Philippians 1, verse 6. "We can be confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you, will complete it until the day of Christ Jesus." OK, He who has begun a good work in you **will** complete it until the day of Christ Jesus. That is a blessed, blessed truth and...you know...that's part of what Bruce says is dark, isn't it? That we just rely upon Him and trust Him that He will do that. Now, this may be a sticky point for a few people but at the same time, our sanctification is a process. We do participate not for earning anything, not for merit, heaven forbid, but...you know...we are along for the ride as it were. You know...we do participate.

Let's look at a few passages that look at the other side of the coin, still keeping in mind the sufficiency of Christ.

Philippians 2, verses 12 and 13. "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure." OK, and it is the same thing I was saying here about the preservation and the perseverance of the saints. The reason we can endure is only because God is working in us to do His good pleasure. So the glory goes to Christ and Christ alone, even though...we do...you know...Paul says...you know...we do strive but only because of the work of Christ in us.

Hebrews 2, verse 11.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT. *Hey Don..., back in that Philippians passage, can you explain a little more as to what Paul means by working out your salvation with fear and trembling? It sounds a little ominous, like it is my responsibility, [UNCLEAR]. Help me to understand it.*

Well, I know different people have different interpretations of it, but what I believe it says is to work it out not in a casual way, not in a way that is flippant..."oh, well, ho hum"...Christ is doing it all in me so there...you know...I'll just be casual about it. No, there are many, many Scriptures that say we are to fear God, that we are to come before Him in reverence and Godly fear—not terror—we don't have to be afraid of Him in that sense...not terror, but in Godly fear and Godly reverence. To be diligent...I'll talk later on in our passage about the means of grace. Notice it is called the means of grace, not the means of merit, and the Puritans were fond of that term. God has provided ways that we can work out our salvation in fear and trembling. Reading His Word, spending time with the Lord, which He gives you the desire to do. You would not want to do those things if He were not working in you; you know...fellowshipping with other Christians, corporate worship. I wonder, and I cannot judge ultimately, but people who claim to be Christians and do not want to do those things or have no interest in those things, I wonder if they are Christians, I wonder if the Spirit of God is working in them. So with fear and trembling means taking it seriously, that's what I believe it means.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: *Hey Don... I want to read a little further [UNCLEAR]...Philippians 2, verse 14 [UNCLEAR]. "Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you proffer the word of life—in order that I may boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor for vain."*

Yes, good point.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: *Don: Do you mind me presenting the other interpretation?*

No, go ahead.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: *The reformed view and the interpretation is called the analogy of faith, where you don't take the Scriptures out of context of the whole Bible, but you look at the whole Scripture. In this case, where else has Paul used the words fear and trembling? In speaking to the Corinthians he said, "I didn't come to you with eloquent words." What did he mean? He was a teacher, he was a rabbi; in the middle of the Scriptures,...he's talking about the fear and trembling because he didn't want to do the speaking, he didn't want to trust his knowledge, his expertise, his work as you would have it. OK? He is saying that we really cannot have anything for our salvation, Christ is the bridge.*

AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: *Well the thing that concerns me about the passage is that...it says, "It is God who works in you both to will and do His good pleasure." And if His good pleasure was to take His Son to the Cross, why should I expect that I would not have to go that far and that I won't have to lay down my life?*

AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: *No, it's just the opposite.*

What I think He is saying is that if you are trusting in any way that adds to your salvation...or even to your salvation,...you had better be in fear and trembling. OK? That is all He is saying.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: *I agree with that. I'm just trying to get a sense of...that's what Paul intended... He took Christ to the Cross and that was His good will...*

Well, we will be talking about that in a few minutes, Sig, about the suffering, the aspect of suffering, so, yes, hang in there.

SIG: *Going back to Philippians 2, verses 12 and 13. [UNCLEAR] in working it out. God renews His mercy daily. When you open your eyes in the morning, you purpose in your heart to go to God and He continues that sanctification that He started, because...if your little kid says, "I'm not gonna to do that" and ends up in the corner because you discipline...he's not working out what you had in mind for him. You purpose in your heart to go to God and say, "I'm here again, and you promise to renew your mercy to work in me, through me, and with me, and here am I. Your will be done. Then you are not the one at work, all you are doing is stepping up and saying [UNCLEAR].*

AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: *Don, [UNCLEAR]...we are not really talking in this message though about the [UNCLEAR]. In this passage here, we are talking about the process of our walk...what it's saying is this walk is one of co-labor, Christ is actually doing the walk but He is not expecting us to go along for the ride for nothing. So this passage [UNCLEAR] as I'm following your concept is us gripping the hand of Christ and Christ gripping our hand, but there is a process and it is not something you say in the salvation prayer...it's over and it's done with...Christ does everything. What this is saying is that we are by definition involved in a relationship where we are in Christ and we are by definition opening the blind [UNCLEAR]...let His Son shine into our lives. The Son is always shining, we are opening the blind and allowing it in. It is not a [UNCLEAR] issue but it is a relationship issue. I [UNCLEAR] with my wife to a*

certain degree because of a number of factors, but it is still a relationship and what we are talking about here is more of a relationship walk than we are a [UNCLEAR].

AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: *And Don, if I could add to that [UNCLEAR]....without murmuring or complaining...we are not to complain as we walk this walk with Christ.*

Yes, absolutely. Very good...in fact Bill would you...you know I have to hurry along here with my other two points, but would you read those two passages in Hebrews? Hebrews 2, verse 11, and the other passages...Hebrews 10, verse 14?

Bill: *Hebrews 2, verse 11. "For it is both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified, are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brothers."*

Hebrews 10, verse 14. "For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified."

OK, yes, so truly, you know, not only is our...Christ is our sanctification but we are being sanctified...we are being in the process of being sanctified. And it is not...let me just say this too...it is Christ who is also sufficient for our purpose in life...I mean...what are we living for? What does the world live for? It lives for success, riches, fame, and approval of men. Yet sometimes I'll just...last night I watched a little bit of "American Idol" and I don't like that term actually, but that's the name of the show, and when people don't make it they are devastated and they cry "Oh, please, please, give me one more chance; I'll do anything, I'll hop, skip and jump, stand on my head and, you know, make a fool of myself" ...well they don't say that...but...you know this craving...what did Christ say? "The gentiles seek all of these things." But we are to seek His Kingdom and righteousness and we can do this only because of the sufficiency of Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

Let's go to the next section here. Christ is sufficient in our trials, tribulations, and sufferings. Can someone read John 16, verse 33?

AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: *You've skipped over the most important point.*

Oh, I did?

AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: *You have here in number 4 that Christ has provided us with the means of grace...*

Oh. Well I went over that a little bit a couple of minutes.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: *"Oh, I must have missed it, thank you." {LAUGHTER}.*

Wake up, Sig, wake up. [UNCLEAR].

AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT—SIG: *"And we don't want to forget that." {LAUGHTER}*

No, no absolutely not. And it's to our benefit that we use them. OK.

But Christ is sufficient in our trials, tribulations, and sufferings. Could someone read John 16, verse 33? “These things I have spoken to you that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” OK, Christ did not say in the world you **might** have tribulation; he says you **will**. And I think, Sig, that goes back to what you were saying a couple of minutes ago in that passage where Paul said to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, and the context of suffering...you know there will be suffering, and I have to admit that for whatever reason I have not experienced all that much suffering in my life, so it is kind of hard for me to give my testimony in regard to that. I mean we all have suffering, none of us have the persecution. I think it’s safe to say that none of us in this country now has had the persecution that Paul went through. Many of our brothers and sisters around the world, in the Middle East, in China, and Sudan are going through it right now. I think it may come to that in the future because of what is going on in this country, but not now.

Unlike the false promises of the health and wealth gospel...you know...name it and claim...blab it and grab it, Christ said you **will** have tribulation. The apostles all suffered martyrdom. Martyr just means witness and to be a witness was to be a martyr. John was exiled for a good deal of his life. Paul certainly didn’t live...you know...what most people would consider the American dream. All you have to do is read the Book of Acts...you know...and all the epistles of Paul, but how could they live like that day after day and die confidently? How could our brothers and sisters in Christ throughout the world who are still going through persecution and torture and imprisonment, and death...how could they live that way?

I don’t mean to harp on this, but my friend Aaron...now how could he live with the excruciating pain of cancer day after day without growing bitter who, all the time said, “I want to see my King, I want to see my King.” My pastor and he had a conversation a few days before he died and my pastor asked him, “Aaron, is there anything you would like to tell me...you know...say to me in your last days?” and Aaron said, “I want to say that I just thank the Lord for all the blessings he has given me and I can’t stop counting them.” This is a man who had cancer, who was in such unbelievable agony and yet he could say that. How could he say that? Because he knew all of the....I pray that we will know and believe Christ’s promises that He is sufficient in our death, in our suffering, but by His death and resurrection He has overcome the world.

You know, 2nd Corinthians, Chapter 4, verse 17 says that our light and momentary afflictions...you know... it does not seem like light and momentary afflictions. Rich, I’m sure that Jody’s agony didn’t seem like light and momentary affliction...neither to you nor to her. So many people we can think of in our midst and we know that we’re praying for...it doesn’t seem like light and momentary affliction, but it is compared to the waiting of eternal glory that Christ will give us and He is sufficient for us. He is sufficient for these things.

You know...we know that Romans 8:18 says the same thing: “I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing to the glory that will be revealed in us.” That is just so wonderful to think about. We groan, don’t we? Sure we do, that passage says the whole creation groans; waiting for the redemption of our bodies, waiting for the confirmation of the coming of Christ. You know, Mike was telling me this morning on the way over that many years ago he was involved with members of his family in a church in Washington, D.C. that did not preach the gospel and the pastor read Matthew 24 and 25 and the pastor said, “[UNCLEAR]...you believe that Christ is going to come with the armies of heaven, [UNCLEAR] you’re mad.” He said, “The world is not looking for a King to come and conquer everything, we are looking for a little baby to come, to grow up and bring us peace.” Well, that is not

what the Word of God teaches at all. It's the opposite isn't it? Christ is our King and he will come and he will put an end to this suffering.

You know Paul's thorn in the flesh in 1st Corinthians, Chapter 12, verses 7 through 10. Paul had a thorn in the flesh, we don't know what it was, but some think it might have been an eye ailment, some people think it could have been some kind of sickness, some people think it might have been a particular sin that he was struggling with, but whatever it was he beseeched the Lord three times to take it away from him. But what did the Lord say? "My grace is sufficient for you, My strength is proved in your weakness." So what did Paul say? It's incredible. He said, "Therefore, I will boast, I will glory in my suffering." Now, it's one thing to put up with suffering, it's one thing to endure suffering but to rejoice in suffering. Didn't Jesus say the same thing? "Rejoice and be exceedingly glad when men revile you and persecute you, and say all manner of evil against you." Paul said we can rejoice in our sufferings. How can that be? Only one explanation: because of the sufficiency of Christ. And rejoicing does not mean that we're masochists or that we pretend to enjoy it and that we really don't; but we do know that we are suffering. We are part of Christ's body as Paul says, "I fill up myself and the measure of Christ suffering..." That Christ and the Holy Spirit are interceding for us.

I have to hurry along here.

Christ is sufficient in our suffering and He will see us through it to the end, and He is a man and He knows what it's like to experience suffering. We can lean upon Him.

OK, last but certainly not least, in fact, it's the most glorious thing of all: our glorification. Christ is sufficient for our glorification. I don't have time to go through Romans 8, verses 28 through 39. But, oh, what a glorious thing it is...for this is what we are living for...this is what we want. I was at a funeral several years ago and someone asked, "Why is the resurrection so important, why does it matter about our bodies? After all, isn't it our souls that Christ is concerned about?" I said, "No...I mean Christ is concerned about our souls and those who are in heaven now are with him in their spirit; but if our bodies do not rise, then Satan would have the final victory, wouldn't he?" Our Christ...you know...is victorious in life and in death. Oh, the glorious truth is in verse 28, "That all things work together for good for those who love God. Those He foreknew and loved from the foundation of the world, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren." That's you, that's me, that's all who name the name of Christ. "And, moreover, those whom He predestined He also called to faith. Those He called, those He also justified. They are righteous and whom He justified, these He also glorified." It's a done deal. It's a done deal.

Now we are going to have glorified bodies, perfect. No more suffering, no more struggle with sin. Loving Christ and loving one another perfectly; we will be perfect people in every way because of the work of Christ. "Now what shall we say to these things? If God is for us who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not also freely give us all things?" Oh, the glorious future that awaits us as believers. It's unfathomable and as Satan, you know, accuses you in verse 33..."Who should bring a charge against God's elect?" It is God who justifies, it is Christ who justifies, He is all sufficient. Who is he who condemns? It's easy to think that after sinning, "Oh, I can't be a Christian." No. It is Christ who died and furthermore who has also risen and who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. Constantly! Oh, what a glorious thing that is when you pray...even when you are not praying...that He is still making intercession for you.

And then that glorious passage, “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ, shall tribulation or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or perils, or sword...” And he goes on in verse 38, “For I am convinced that neither death nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor death, nor any other created things...” That includes you. ...”shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Amen.

Christ...all because Christ is sufficient and all the Brave Men said “Amen.”

Let us pray. Father, I admit I have not scratched the surface here. Father, your Word is just so unfathomable and I pray that we would just take these truths to heart. That, Lord, we would just bask in your love and lean upon you Lord Jesus, and especially, Lord, as men, it’s been called our default position and we just want to rely upon ourselves. Oh, Father, help us to rely upon Jesus and if you bring suffering into our life, Father, may that be the tool by which we do it more and more. In any case, Father, whatever position we are in life, wherever we are, Lord, please help us to rely upon you daily, and Father be with us this day in whatever pursuits we have today and every day throughout all eternity. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen!

AUDIENCE RESPONSE: *Amen!*

AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: *Well done, Don.*

AUDIENCE APPLAUSE.