

If God Be for Us

Ray Stedman

I. Introduction.

A. Text: Romans 8:29-39.

B. No matter whether our hearts are breaking or rejoicing, there is no event without purpose.

C. God has a purpose, and there is purpose in life.

D. Romans is about how God works in human history to accomplish His purpose—to have many sons.

E. Love is the end and aim of life.

II. God's process.

A. God foreknew those who would be in Christ.

1. The odds that we would come out as those who were born are astronomical.

2. Out of all the possibilities, it is staggering that God would have the ability to foreknow us.

B. God predestined.

1. God does not predestine a person to hell.

2. God has already selected beforehand the goal of every believer—likeness and conformity to Christ.

3. God's primary concern is not our happiness.

4. God would rather that we would be complete like Jesus.

C. God called us.

1. This is where the believer gets involved.

2. We are being drawn in ways that we do not understand.

D. God justified.

1. He gave the gift of worth without cause on the part of the receiver.

2. The cross freed God to give us the gift of righteousness.

E. God glorified.

1. This process has already begun.
2. It is the revelation of the sons of God—when all creation sees what God has been doing among the human race.
3. This is sanctification—the process by which the human spirit is changed to be more like God.

III. Our response: thank you. God is after the unforced love of man.

IV. The nature of the love of God.

A. The first response of love is to say, if God is for me who can be against me.

1. This is the removal of fear from opposition.
2. This does not mean the removal of the opposition.
3. The Lord is our strength. (Psalm 27)
4. Want is also removed. (Psalm 23)

B. We love God when we fully trust in His work on our behalf.

1. God's two great works are justification and the power of Jesus' risen life given.
2. There is no grounding for cults that religious experiences are true—Christianity, however, is grounded in history.

C. We love God by answering, who shall separate us from the love of Christ?

1. No force shall come between you and God.
2. No trouble will separate you from God.

Application questions:

1. How does Romans give solace to the person struggling with suffering?

2. Explain God's process of salvation. Which element stands out to you? Why?

3. Which way of loving God strikes you the most? How will you practice this more consistently this week?
