**Romans 8:31-31**

Introduction

I. In these verses Paul articulates 5 rhetorical questions that hold within them 5 wonderful promises.

II. We would do well to speak these promises to ourselves every day to counteract our fears and discouragement. Martin Lloyd Jones puts it this way:

“Have you realized that most of your unhappiness in life is due to the fact that you are listening to yourself instead of talking to yourself? Take those thoughts that come to you the moment you wake up in the morning. You have not originated them but they are talking to you, they bring back the problems of yesterday, or the fears of tomorrow. Somebody is talking. Who is talking to you? Your self is talking to you. Now the Psalmist’s treatment was this: instead of allowing this self to talk to him, he starts talking to himself. “Self, find rest in God alone.” His soul had been depressing him, crushing him. So he stands up and says,: “Self, listen for moment, I will speak to you.”

The Passage

I. Question 1 and 2 address God’s fundamental posture towards us as believers

A. If God is for us who can be against us? (v. 31)

 1. Answer = no-one.

2. God is “FOR” us

= he is on our side

 = he wants the best for us, wants us to thrive, wants nothing but what is good

3. Many of us believe God is for us in our head, but in our heart we secretly suspect he is out to get us or screw with our lives

B. He who did not spare his own Son . . . how will he not also give us all things? (v. 32)

 1. This gets at God’s generosity and willingness to give us the things we need

2. It’s an argument from the greater to the lesser

 a. God already did the greater thing: give us his son

1) Paul’s language intentionally echoes Genesis 22 where Abraham was called not to “withhold” his “own son”

2) God essentially did what he spared Abraham from having to do

b. So surely God will do the lesser: give us all things

= all things we need to safely arrive at our eternal home with him

 Whether encouragement, support, his Spirit, his comfort

3. The key question here is: Do we see God as a generous Father who is just waiting to lavish gifts on his kids, or do we see him as a tight-fisted withholding God?

C. One of Satan’s greatest strategies is to try to call in question these first two realities: To get us to distrust God’s intentions towards us and doubt his provision for us

II. Question 3 and 4 address what our fundamental status before God is (v. 33-34)

A. Paul paints a picture of a courtroom trial, but his point is that the trial is completely rigged in our favor

1. We are the defendant: accused of various crimes (which we may in fact be guilty of)

 2. Satan or other people are the prosecution

 3. God is the Judge

 a. And he has already chosen us

 b. And he has already justified us

 4. Jesus is our defense attorney

a. He already died to serve the sentence for our crime

b. He was “raised to life and is at the right hand of God” which means he has a unique position of power and privilege and access to the Judge’s ear

 c. He is interceding for us = mounting the best defense of all time

“Yes, these charges are true, yes they deserve condemnation

 But I have already paid the penalty, so Judge, you are free to let them off,

 Free to bless them in any way you see fit.

 d. And he happens to be the Judge’s Son!

Who’s the judge going to listen to more? Some prosecuting attorney without a case or his own Son!

B. This is so important to remember because we often struggle with voices of accusation

1. Voices of self-accusation inside our own hearts

2. Voices that come from our culture and tell us we are not enough according to the cultural expectations

Conclusion

I. In v. 38 Paul says, “for I am convinced.” Are you convinced? How would you live if you were?

II. We need to stop listening to ourselves and start preaching to ourselves

Every morning this week, wake up and preach these promises to yourself:

 Self: The God of the universe is on your side, always and forever

Self: He has spared no expense and will spare no expense to meet your every need

Self: He has silenced every single accusation that stands against you

Self: You are forgiven, forever not guilty in his sight

Self: Nothing in the universe will ever stop him from loving you