

Scripture Reading

A Reading of the Letter of Paul to the Romans (*Romans 8:31-37*)

If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us all-how will He not also, along with Him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died - more than that, who was raised to life - is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: "For Your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. The Word of the Lord. R. Thanks be to God.

Reflection – In Christ We Will Never Be Defeated

What Christ's Sacrifice on the Cross meant for us. Through His life, death and resurrection, Jesus Christ conquered on our behalf sin, death and hell. *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord* (*Romans 6:23*). Jesus through His Precious Blood shed on the Cross paid in full for our sins. Therefore, in Christ we can stand before God the Father fully justified, as though we never sinned! In the place of death - the wage of sin - we were given a share of God's life - eternal life. Through the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ, we are empowered to live His life of righteousness. There is absolutely nothing - no matter how evil or entrenched it is in our lives – that can hold us in bondage away from God. The supreme Sacrifice of Jesus Christ on Calvary gives to every believer of Jesus freedom of the highest degree - a spiritual freedom from repented sins and the power to break away from evil to live in His righteousness. Through Christ all bondages due to evil and sin are broken.

Christ has supremacy in everything (cf. *Colossians 1:18*). God the Father was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Christ (cf. *Colossians 1:19*) so that Christ can state in all truth: My Father and I are one (cf. *John 10:30*). All things in heaven or on earth, visible or invisible were created by Him and for Him (cf. *Colossians 1:16*). However, all of Christ's power and supremacy would be irrelevant to us if He did not use it to pave our way to share His glory in heaven.

Jesus is our unchanging eternal High Priest. Scripture tells us that Christ is able to save completely those who come to God through Him as He is always interceding for us (cf. *Hebrews 7:25*). Jesus is not only our Sacrifice / Victim but also our eternal High Priest constantly interceding before the throne of God the Father on our behalf. Though we may change and turn away from the true path, Jesus remains the same yesterday, today and forever (cf. *Hebrews 13:8*). His love, power, promises, Word, faithfulness will never pass away. We have ultimate security in Jesus whatever happens.

Jesus is the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End (cf. *Revelation 22:13*). Jesus is the author of all things and the finisher of all things. The Prince of the world (Satan) may prevail temporarily in the world and deceive people but his time will come to an end and he will receive his just desserts for deceiving the people.

God's care and love for us is never-ending. By giving His Son over to us, God showed beyond a shadow of doubt how precious we are to Him (cf. *Isaiah 43:4*). By sending Jesus to live as a man on earth, God gives us an example of how to live and love. By sending His Spirit to us and through the institution of the Holy Eucharist and His promise to be present whenever two or more are gathered in His Name, Jesus has not left us orphans when He ascended into heaven but is always with us. God cares for the tiniest aspect of our lives and He even knows the number of hairs on our heads (cf. *Matthew 10:30*). God's love for us is pure, sacrificial and more tender than the best of mother's (cf. *Isaiah 49:15*).

Conversation with Jesus

Precious Lord, I come before You as Your little child and I place all my burdens on You. I have been wearied and wounded by many battles. However, whenever I called to You, You were always there lifting me up so that my hope in You is always kept alive. Keep my eyes fixed on You. Help me cling to the truth that in You and with You I will never be defeated by anything or any situation or problem in my life. Help me understand that there is nothing in this world that can separate me from You except through my own unrepented sin. Mary, Protectress of the Faith make my faith strong like Yours. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.