

## **Four Important Questions**

Sunday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, 1991

### **Romans 8:28-31**

*And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified. What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?*

I'll be speaking today, from the Book of Romans Chapter 8. If you would like to follow along in your Bible, please open it to Romans, the Eighth Chapter and I will read verses 28 through 31.

My subject is entitled: "Four Important Questions." I want you to listen carefully to this message today. It may be what you call controversial, and to some degree divisive. I am going to preach it anyway, "Four Important Questions."

In Romans 8: verse 28, Paul is writing here to the church at Rome. He says, "*And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose. For whom He (God) did foreknow, God also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son. Moreover, whom He did predestinate, them God also called, and whom He called, them He also justified. Whom He justified, them He also glorified.*"

"*What shall we say to these things?*" Paul replies, "*If God be for us, then who can be against us?*" Since it is true, that God foreknew us

and predestinated us to be conformed to the image of His Son. He justified and called us and glorified us in Christ. If God be on our side and God can be for us, then who can be against us?

Now, most of today's preachers and churches positively declare four things. I want you to listen to these four things and you see if I'm not telling you the truth. Most churches and most preachers that I hear on television, radio and other places, declare and agree on these four things.

Listen, first of all, most all preachers and most all churches declare that God loves all people the same without exception. Is this not true? Is this not what most people preach, that God Almighty, the eternal God of Heaven and earth loves everybody in all the world the same without exception? The verse of scripture that they use to teach this mainly is John 3:16, *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."* That is generally what everybody believes and teaches. They say God loves everybody the same and that He loves Peter, Judas, Mary and Jezebel the same. They say God loves those in heaven and those in hell. God is in love with everybody.

The second thing that just about all of them preach and agree on is that God Almighty, the God of Heaven and earth wills, desires or wants the salvation of everybody without exception. God wills to save everybody. They say He wants to save everybody in this world without exception. One of the verses they use for this is, *"God is not willing that any should perish."* That is found in Second Peter 3:9 and in another verse of scripture in First Timothy 2:4 that says, *"Who will have all men to be saved."*

The third thing that practically every preacher and every church in the whole United States preach and agree on is that Jesus Christ died for everybody. He died for all men without exception. They say His blood was shed for all men and that His blood atoned for our entire race. The key verse that they use here is First John 2, "*He is the propitiation for our sins and not for ours only but for the whole world.*" It does seem to indicate that doesn't it? When Jesus Christ died on the cross, He died for everybody, shed His blood for everybody, He atoned for everybody's sins and paid everybody's sin debt.

The fourth thing is that they teach about the Holy Spirit and the Spirit of the living God. Here you have the Father who loves all men, and wills the salvation of all men. They say Christ died for all men without exception and that the Holy Spirit strives with and calls all men to salvation without exception. They say the Holy Spirit knocks at every heart's door and tries to get everybody to be saved. He warns, and witnesses and calls to and calls all men.

If this be true, I want you to listen because I have four questions for thoughtful people. If I've got a good lawyer listening to me this morning and I want you to listen and to see if this can be in agreement with you. Or you may be a schoolteacher or someone that really does some thinking and teaching. I want you to listen carefully to me. If these things be true, then I have four questions for thoughtful people. We are hearing preached that God Almighty loves everybody the same without exception and the Almighty God of heaven and earth wills and desires the salvation of every son of Adam. We hear that Christ Jesus died and shed His blood and paid for the sins of every son of Adam. We hear that Christ died for every human being and that the Holy Spirit tries His best to save everybody. I have four questions for thoughtful people.

I want someone to hear that won't be led around by his or her nose or believe everything that anybody tells him or her. I want you to give some serious thought to these questions that arise from these kinds of theology. This is a brand of theology. This is an American, Arminianism, or Semi-Pelagianism, brand of theology.

Here is my first question, if these things be true: If God loves all men the same without exception, then what does the love of God have to do with a person's salvation? The answer is, absolutely nothing! If God loves all men the same and all men are not saved, then His love has no power to save, His love makes no distinction, and His love has no part in our salvation. If Peter went to heaven, and Judas went to hell, and He loves them the same, then His love had nothing to do with either one. His love couldn't prevent the destruction of Judas and couldn't save Peter. His love would have nothing to do with it.

If a person goes to heaven, he cannot say that I am here because God loved me. There are people in hell for which God loved. How do you know that you won't go to hell? You say that God loves you. Well, God loves everybody in hell. You may wind up there too. So, if God loves everybody the same, then what does the love of God have to do with the salvation of a sinner? The answer is nothing!

Let me ask you this, secondly, If Almighty God wills and desires the salvation of all men and that is what He wills, then what does the will of God have to do with one's salvation? The answer is absolutely nothing! If the Almighty God wants to save a person and wills to save a person, and wishes to save a person, and yet that person is not saved, then the will of God has no power. God's will has no authority. God's will has no part in salvation.

There is no reason to pray, “Thy will be done,” because it is not going to be done. There is no need to say to God, “Thy will be done.” What is the use of praying that? His will won’t be done. They say He willed to save people in hell and couldn’t get the job done and His will has nothing to do with salvation at all because He willed to save them and couldn’t. That is what I hear preachers say, “God wants to save you and wills to save you but you won’t let him.” Well then, the power to save is in the creature and not in his God.

The third question is, If Jesus Christ died on the cross to save all men without exception, and He actually shed His blood for the sins of all men, then I ask you, what does the death and blood of Christ have to do with a man’s salvation? The death and blood would have absolutely nothing to do with salvation.

What happens if God loved him and God willed to save him and Christ died for him and he still perishes? What does it have to do with our salvation? If men perish for who Christ died, then His death has no power to save. If men go to hell for which Christ shed His blood, then His blood has no power to cleanse, no power to sanctify, and no power to justify.

The people in heaven who are singing that song, “*Unto Him who loved us,*” what would they be singing that for? They say, “there are people in hell whom He loved.” Why are you giving glory to Him who loved you, unto Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood? That would be foolishness! They say He loved everybody and His blood was shed for everybody, He died for everybody and He willed to save everybody.

They say He couldn't save him, so God failed according to today's theology. He washed people in hell from their sin just exactly as He washed people in heaven and that was to no avail. My friends, this is confusing.

You have people who say that preachers confuse them. Of course they are confusing. They are preaching one thing out of this side of their mouth and one thing out of the other side. They say God is Almighty and then they say that He can't do what He wills to do. They say that Christ died for our sin and turn right around and say that He died for everybody's sin. They say, "God loves this man, God loves Jacob and God loves Esau too! That is not what the scripture says.

Here is the fourth question. If the Holy Spirit strives with all men and calls all men and tries to save all men without exception, then what does the Holy Spirit have to do with salvation? People say that they are regenerated by the Spirit, called by the Spirit, and baptized by the Holy Spirit. What is the reason? The answer would be, absolutely nothing. People say that He tries to do that for everybody and they won't let Him.

If God tries to convict all, regenerate all and call all, then salvation is not by the Holy Spirit or by the power of the Holy Spirit, it is by the will and works and merit of the sinner. That is true! They say that God loves all the same without exception. If God wills the salvation of all men without exception, if Christ died for all men without exception, if the Holy Ghost calls all men without exception, then the Holy Trinity has no power to save. The Holy Trinity has no real part in the salvation of sinners. The scripture which says, "*Salvation is of the Lord,*" is just not so.

Salvation ends up being of man. That is what is being preached. The scripture, which declares the blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanseth us from all sin, ends up that it is just not so. It may cleanse you and it may not cleanse you, it all depends on what you do about it.

Do you see how inconsistent this is? This type of preaching is totally inconsistent with the scriptures, logic and reason and justice. There is no wonder that most people are confused and many people won't even go to church. Their preaching is so inconsistent.

I'm going to declare unto you what the scripture says about the love of God, the will of God, the blood of Christ and what the scripture says about the power. His power is the irresistible and invincible power of God's Holy Spirit.

Now, the love of God is the very foundation of our salvation. The scripture says, *"Herein is love, not that we loved God, He loved us."* John is writing to the church. John is writing to believers. John is not writing to the pagans and heathens and unbelievers and the whole world. He is writing to the church. He said, *"Here is love, not that we loved God, He loved us and He sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. We love Him because He first loved us."*

Our love is a response to His love. He said, *"I have drawn you with an everlasting love."* The love of God my friend, is in Christ Jesus and His love is upon those given to Christ and those in Christ and those who believe His Word. I'm talking about His sheep, His elect, His church, His jewels, and His brethren.

He called them by many names. In fact, in Matthew Chapter 7, He tells about the judgment and He says that He is going to say to many

people, *"I never knew you."* How can He love somebody that He doesn't know? He will say, *"I never knew you,"* I never loved you, I never set my affection upon you and you were never mine. That is what the scripture is teaching.

Listen to John 3:36, *"He that believeth on the Son, He hath everlasting life and He that believeth not the Son shall not see life but the wrath of God abideth on him."* We don't ever hear that mentioned, the wrath of God. Is there no wrath with God? How do you account for the flood? How do you account for the destruction of Sodom? Was that an act of love or was that an act of judgment and wrath?

If there is no wrath with God, how do you account for Sodom and Gomorrah? How do you account for the destruction of the Amalekites and Jericho? All of these were heathen cities as Israel ran them over and conquered them and destroyed every living thing. That is the judgment of an angry God. The scripture says, *"Jacob have I loved."* Jacob was in the covenant. Jacob was in Christ. Jacob was His elect.

*"Jacob have I loved, Esau have I hated."* In Psalm 5:5, the scripture says, *"God hateth all workers of iniquity."* In Psalm 7:11, the scripture says, *"God is angry with the wicked every day. He that believeth on the Son, he hath life and love and peace. He that believeth not the Son, the wrath of God abideth on him."* Don't tell people that God Almighty loved Jezebel; He condemned her to everlasting destruction. Don't tell people God Almighty loves unbelievers. He loves those in Christ. That is where His love is.

In Romans 8:38 and 39, it says, *"Nothing can separate us from the love of God which is in Jesus Christ our Lord."* That is just true! There is no one in hell that God loves. What kind of love is that? If

you look at men and say, “God loves you but you’re going to hell.” Then I would just as soon that He wouldn’t love me. That is a strange expression of love.

If one of your children asks for bread, would you give him a stone? If one of your children would ask for meat, would you offer him a scorpion? *“If you being evil, know how to give good gifts to your own whom you love, how shall not the heavenly Father give good things to them whom He loves?”* God’s love is in Christ.

All whom He loves will be in glory. *“Whom He did foreknow, He did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son; whom He predestinated, He called; whom He called He justified; whom He justified, He glorified.”*

The love of God is the foundation of our salvation. The will of God is the cause of our salvation. Moses said, *“Lord, show me your glory.”* God said, *“Moses, this is My glory, My goodness; I will be merciful to whom I will be merciful. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious.”*

I will tell you this, if God wills a man’s salvation, that man will be saved. God willed the salvation of Noah, *“Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.”* God willed Abraham to come out of idolatry and he came out. Our Lord Jesus Christ willed for Zacchaeus to come out of that tree. He came down. The scripture says, *“Of His own will begat He us with the Word of truth.”*

If salvation were left to your will, you would never be saved. You would never be saved by my will, your will or anybody else’s will. The will of man is in bondage to sin. Our Lord said, *“You will not*

*come to Me that you might have life. It is not of him that willeth, it is not of him that runneth, it is God that showeth mercy. God rules in the armies of heaven and among the inhabitants of this earth and giveth it to whomsoever He will.”* Paul said, in Ephesians 1, two or three times, *“He worketh all things after the council of His own will.”*

I will tell you this, there can't be but one Sovereign will, one free-will, one dominating will in this universe and that is God's will. *“He'll make us willing in the day of His power.”* Christ said, *“No man can come unto Me except My Father which sent Me, draw him.”* In John Chapter 1, it says, *“We (who receive Christ), were born, not of the will of the flesh, not of the will of man, we were born of God.”*

Listen to the Shepherd, *“Other sheep I have which are not of this fold, them I must bring and they shall hear My voice and they shall be one fold and one shepherd.”* How is this going to be? God willed it. *“As many as were ordained to eternal life, believed.”* Our Lord Jesus Christ said in John 6:37, *“All that My Father giveth Me shall come to me and him that cometh to Me, I will in no wise cast out, for I came down from heaven not to do My own will, (as the Mediator, as the Messiah and as the Christ). I came down to do the will of My Father that sent Me and this is My Father's will, that of all which He hath given Me, I'll lose nothing, but raise it up at the last day.”* This is my Father's will.

Do you mean to tell me that God wills the salvation of every human being? I will tell you this, if He does, then there is universal salvation, and everybody is going to be in heaven. God's will shall be done. I will guarantee you that! He will have His way. *“Thy will be done.”*

That is what our Lord taught us to pray. *“If you ask anything, (He said), according to God’s will, it shall be done.”* The love of God is the foundation of our salvation. The will of God is the cause of our salvation. The blood of Christ was not shed in vain. He did not fail. *“He will see of the travail of His soul and be satisfied.”* The blood of Christ is the one sacrifice, the one sin offering, the one atonement and it is the sole reason for your justification.

It is not the blood of Christ, plus your faith. It’s not the blood of Christ, plus your works. It’s not the blood of Christ, plus your decision, *“It is the blood that maketh atonement for the soul.”* He didn’t fail. He accomplished an atonement that atones. He purchased a redemption that redeems. He accomplished a salvation that saves.

We are loved in Christ, chosen in Christ, redeemed in Christ and accepted in Christ. My friends, we’ll be glorified in Christ. Our Lord did not shed His blood for those who are in hell or for those who are on their road to hell. He died like the High Priest of old.

The High Priest of old went into the Holy of Holies. There was one ark, one mercy seat and there was one atonement. This was all for Israel. He had on His breastplate the names of the tribes of Israel. That High Priest made an atonement and sacrifice for God’s people. When Christ went to the cross, He shed His blood for God’s people. His blood was shed for every generation, to every tribe, tongue, and kindred on the face of this earth. Where God has a people, the blood of Christ atones.

Down there in Egypt, where was the blood? The blood was on the door and the lentil of the people of Israel. God said, *“When I see the blood, I’ll pass over you.”* Everywhere God saw the blood that night,

that dark terrible night of death, He passed over. I will tell you this, everywhere He sees the blood now, where the blood of Christ is there by God's grace, and there by faith, and there through belief, God will pass over. Where there is no blood, there is no justification. *"His blood maketh atonement for the soul."*

Why did Christ die on the cross? Well, He died to enable God to be just and justifier. Peter said, *"He died the just for the unjust that He might bring us to God."* He is talking about literally, bringing us to God. Well, when He died, did He bring everybody to God? The scripture says, *"He died to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself."*

Did He put away sin? Well, what? Did He put away sin? *"He died to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. By Himself, He purged our sins."* Did He or didn't He? If He did that for every human being then there is universal salvation. Every human being will be saved. If He did it for the believer, for those who rest in Christ, then those are the ones who will be saved. God's love and God's will and Christ's blood are in perfect harmony. *"Whom the Father chose, the Son redeemed, and the Holy Spirit calls."*

Why did Christ die? *"He was made sin for us who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him."* Everybody, for whom He was made sin, will be made the righteousness of God. Every sin He paid for is paid for. Every debt He paid is paid. Every heart He cleansed is cleansed. *"By one offering He hath perfected."*

My friends, what is perfect? Perfect is perfect. Perfect has no lack. *"By one offering He perfected forever them that are sanctified. I lay down My life for My sheep. He was wounded for our transgressions;*

*He was bruised for our iniquities, the chastisement of our peace was laid on Him; by His stripes we are healed.”* Is that true or not true?

It is not a perhaps or a maybe. It is not an uncertainty. You can't put a question mark on that man on the cross. You can't put a question mark on that blood flowing from His veins:

There is a fountain filled with blood  
Drawn from Immanuel's veins,  
Sinners plunged beneath that flood  
Lose all their guilty stains.

No they don't! They don't lose their stain. They say that He did that for everybody and people are going to hell for whom He died. Do you see how inconsistent that is?

It looks to me like everybody would quit going to church. I don't see why they don't just walk off. Preachers need to come to the truth where they will quit lying on God and tell the truth consistently, scripturally, biblically and logically and true to the character of God. Or I am not going to listen anymore.

I will tell you this, *“The pleasure of God shall prosper in His hand.”* If God loves you and God wills your salvation and Christ died for you, the Holy Spirit will call you. When the Holy Spirit calls you, you will be willing. *“Whom He foreknew, He predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son. Who He predestinated, He called, and whom He called He justified and whom He justified, He will glorify. Now, what do we have to say to these things?”*

I will tell you this, "*Salvation is of the Lord.*" He cannot be defeated.  
"*If God be for you who can be against you?*"