

Romans 8: Victory in Jesus **05-14-17 AM**

If we had to summarize Romans simply, we might break it into three parts: The first part is meant to explain the scheme of redemption (1-8); the second part is meant to explain Israel's part in that scheme (9-11), and the last part discusses the Christian life (12-16). In many ways it follows a pattern in which Paul wrote (first a scholarly discourse, then a Christian life application).

The last portion of Romans 8 (31-39) explains why we have a victory in Jesus. Having finished explaining the scheme of redemption (justification by faith), he concludes with a "so what" type of message. The point is that God has finished His work for us, and it is perfect.

The victory that is described here is a legal one. Much of Romans contains legal language; indeed, until recently the book of Romans was studied in American law schools¹. Indeed, the book should cause us to see a trial setting. Imagine a courtroom setting for these things. In this courtroom, there is a judge, a prosecutor, a defense attorney, and a bar. This is the meaning of the Gospel:

The Judge – Our heavenly Father (1 Peter 4:5) Christ too is our judge

The Prosecutor – the Accuser Satan (whose name means accuser) (Revelation 12:10)

The Defense Attorney – Our Advocate Jesus Christ (1 John 2:1)

The Bar – that barrier between God and man which Jesus has crossed (Hebrews 9:24)

Paul makes several points in his closing remarks on this as to how we have achieved a legal victory through Jesus Christ. First, he points out that there can be no accusation made against us in the law (Colossians 2:13-15). Second, he reminds us that the Judge is on our side, to the degree that He send His Son to justify us. Thus, the Judge has a vested interest in our justification. Third, the accuser has been dismissed, and there is none left to accuse (Hebrews 2:14, Revelation 12:10). Finally, he summarizes by saying that there is nothing left to bring us into condemnation.

Of course, this does not mean that we cannot lose this justification. Our sins separate us from God (Isaiah 59:1-2), and one can, by returning to sin, once more fall into the condemnation of the accuser (1 Timothy 3:6). Indeed, this was Paul's point in Romans 6:2; if we continue to sin, this grace cannot be applied, and we are no longer justified by it.

Romans 1-8 recounts the great work of all the ages – justification by faith in Jesus Christ. It tells us the mechanics of God's incredible work to deliver us from sin. It reveals how God can be both just and justifier; both lawful and merciful.

But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. Romans 8:37

¹ Schaeffer, Francis A. The Finished Work of Christ: the Truth of Romans 1-8. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 1998. 8-9.