

A Portrait of God.

Text: (Romans 8: 31-39).

Introduction:

- 1- A young boy sat at a table drawing. His mother asked, "What are you drawing?" He replied, "I'm drawing a picture of God." The mother said, "But honey, no one knows what God looks like." In all innocence, the little fellow said, "They will when I get through.
- 2- ***A portrait is a painting, photograph, sculpture, or other artistic representation of a person, in which the face and its expression is predominant.***
- 3- God is spirit (John 4:24), and we have no official photograph of Him, but our text does give us a partial verbal portrait of God. . I say a partial verbal picture, because God has more than one facet to His nature (Rom. 11:22).
- 4- This wonderful text gives five characteristics of God that should help us know Him better, love Him more, and serve Him faithfully.

Discussion:

I- GOD IS FOR US (8:31).

A- This truth is stated in our text as a rhetorical question.

B- Unfortunately, not everyone understands that God is for us.

1- Some see God as being beneath us (Rom. 1:21-23).

2- Others see God as being against us [**Illustrated by Jonathan Edward's sermon, "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God," preached in 1741 <http://edwards.yale.edu/major-works/sinners-in-the-hands-of-an-angry-god/>**]

a- There is no want of power in God to cast wicked men into hell at any moment in time.

b- They [wicked men] deserve to be cast into hell: so that divine justice never stands in the way, it makes no objection against God's using his power at any moment to destroy them.

C- The wonderful truth is that God is for us (Rom. 3:23-26).

1- This does not mean we have no opposition or that the forces of evil have lost their power.

2- It means God is on our side strengthening us (Eph. 3:20) and nothing can threaten our ultimate salvation.

II- GOD GAVE US HIS BEST (8:32).

A- Our human nature is to give, but not always to give the very best we have. Divine nature is to always give the best (cf. Jas. 1:5, 17).

B- The giving of His Son to die for us is proof of His willingness to give the best (John 3:16; Rom. 5:6-9; 7:24-25).

1- [In regard to **John 3:16**, Ralph Earle wrote, "This was no impersonal business transaction or legal case. God's love flowed freely at Calvary." (*Word Meanings in the New Testament*, p. 184)].

C- . If He would not withhold His Son, would He withhold any good thing from us? No!

III- GOD WILL JUSTIFY US (8:33-34).

- A- Satan's goal is to devour us (I Pet. 5:8) and have us all condemned eternally. He is the great accuser of God's people (Rev. 12:10).
- B- By contrast, God's goal is to have us justified by Him and saved eternally (II Pet. 3:9; Rom. 8:1).
 - 1- We cannot justify ourselves (8:33; Gal. 2:16).
 - 2- That must be done by the Judge. He alone can declare that it is "just as if we had not sinned."
 - 3- When God justifies us, no one has the authority to condemn us.
- C- Through the **death, burial, resurrection, and intercession of Jesus**, we can stand justified before the Judge in spite of our own weaknesses (I John 1:7-2:2). We rejoice in knowing that when God acquits us, no one can condemn us.

IV- GOD MAKES US WINNERS (8:37).

- A- No matter how this life may treat us, and it can treat us badly at times, we live the abundant life now (John 10:10) and eternity will be a victory celebration.
 - 1- The original language literally means that "we are super victors." [On August 17th 2008 Phelps won 8 Gold medals at the Olympics, That's a "super victory!"]
 - 2- Paul did not believe in barely getting by or going to heaven "by the skin of our teeth" (cf. II Pet. 1:10-11).
- B- We all like to be on the winning side, and God's side is always the winning side (Rev. 2:10; II Tim. 4:6-8). This is where you receive the victor's crown. [The crown mentioned here is not a ruler's crown (*diadema*) but a victor's crown (*stephanos*). It proclaims, "I won!"]
- C- We must run the Christian race like we are the only one who will win, but we must also understand that all faithful Christians win (I Cor. 9:24).

V- GOD WILL NEVER ABANDON US (8:38-39).

- A- In this life, few people can be trusted without reservation, but God can be.
- B- He will never leave us helpless (Heb. 13:5-6).
- C- This does not mean that we cannot abandon God, for many have and do (I Cor. 10:12; I Tim. 4:1). [Earle observed, "But just as we became 'in Christ' by the **choice of our own wills**, so by the same method we can cease to be in Christ. Then we are no longer secure (*ibid.*, p. 186)].
- D- But, there are not enough devils in hell to snatch us out of His hands (John 10:27-29).

Conclusion.

- 1- From our text, we have seen a partial verbal portrait of God.
- 2- Is it not a portrait that will cause you to love Him more fervently and serve Him more faithfully?
- 3- Is it not a picture of love for your lost soul; a portrait of salvation only found in His Son? Hold this portrait close to your heart. Look at it often and remember!

Invite:

Allan 0808 Nply

Thanks to T. Millar

'Portrait of God.'

Worksheet:

(Romans 8:31-39)

- 1- God is for _____ (Rom 8:31)
- 2- God gave us His _____ (Rom 8:32)
- 3- God will _____ us. (Rom 8: 33-34)
- 4- God makes us _____ (Rom 8:37)
- 5- God will never _____ us(Rom 8:37)

From the text I have seen:

Romans 8:31-39

31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? 33 Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written:

*"For Your sake we are killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter."^[a]*

37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. 38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.