

For the Defense

Romans 8:31-34

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 gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? 33 Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

A court of law is in mind. TV defense attorneys like Perry Mason, Matlock, Lincoln Lawyer and now Matlock again, often introduce themselves as counselors “for the defense.” They are best known for spectacular victories. Through guile and special investigative work they always seem to get their clients off. But in the real world we know that is not true. But, for Christians there is Jesus who is our advocate and is the perfect defender. Below we will find that comforting message from the Apostle Paul concerning our defense before our accusers.

The phrase “*If God is for us*” leaves so doubt that it is clear that if we have God on our side, no one can hinder our salvation.

Verse 32 takes that confidence level up another notch. God is not neutral. He is either for us or against us. Paul stipulates under what terms he is for us: Christ was given up for us, and is now risen and intercedes for us on the basis of his atonement. This is the basis for Christian assurance. No danger or trouble can make the believer forget the love of Christ and his consequent actions on their behalf.

The phrase “*bring any charge*” is legal language. Paul asks what prosecutor can bring any charges against the elect. The answer: none; the case is closed. God has declared the defendant not guilty! (TLSB)

Christians do have enemies who accuse them. They are all hostile powers, as Satan, the world and the flesh. But the God the Holy One justifies us. This means that he absolves us and declares us free from sin.

Earthly defenders may leave once the trial is over. Not Jesus! Christ now sits at the right hand of God; He has the same power, honor and Godhead as God. Therefore, when He intercedes with God for us, when He entreats for us when we sin, the goal of this intercession is certainly also reached. Christ’s intercession is the continuous urging of His bloody merit before God.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank you for going to the cross to die for my sins. Thank you for absolving me from all my sins through your precious blood. Thank you for advocating for me each and every moment. Amen.