

**Let There Be No Doubt!**  
**Romans 8:28-39**

**August 9, 2026 (Pen. 11-A)**

**St. Paul's Lutheran, North Freedom**

*And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.*

*What, then, shall we say in response to these things? 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. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:28-39 NIV)*

Dear fellow believers in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior:

Every once in a while, as I'm driving, I might turn on WOLX, the “oldies” radio station. It's a bit of nostalgia for me to hear some of the pop hits I listened to in my teens and twenties, songs from groups like Journey and the Eagles. Then one time I heard the station play a song by the pop group No Doubt, whose heyday came when I was in my 30s and not listening to contemporary rock anymore. I thought to myself, “If No Doubt is considered an ‘oldies’ group, I must really be old!”

**No Doubt** is not just the name of a former pop group. It's really the theme of this section of Paul's letter to Christians in Rome, as he wrote to them, “We *know*” and “I am *convinced*.” Paul had no doubt about two important statements about God's love, which we'll take a closer look at in this sermon. When it comes to God's love for us, **Let There Be No Doubt!**

The first statement Paul made about God's love is this: “We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him.” Some of you have memorized that passage, perhaps worded differently, “All things work together for good for those who love God.” Either way, it tells us anything that happens will one way or another turn out for our good. But do we have some doubts about that statement? “For those who love God”: Do I love God with my all my heart, all my soul, all my strength, and all my mind, as he tells me in the Bible? Am I a strong enough believer for that to happen? I know how weak and sinful I am; I doubt God would love me like that!

But the next phrase helps us understand. Paul adds, “Who have been called according to his purpose.” He directs us to look not to ourselves, but to God. Look at what God did for us in the past: “For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son.” You see, God *foreknew* us—he knew us intimately before we were born, even before creation. And since he knew us, he predestined us, that is, he before creation he destined or planned for us to be his children. Paul also wrote about this in Ephesians 1:4,5: “In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will.” And then, after we were born, “those he predestined, he also called.” God the Holy Spirit called us into his family when we were baptized; through the Word and sacrament we are called to faith. If you have doubts that God loves you, look at your baptism certificate: Yes, God has chosen you into his family!

Look also at what God does for us now. “Those he called, he also justified.” We were born sinful, but when God called us to faith he justified us, he declared us not guilty of sin—not because of anything we did, but all because Jesus Christ paid for all of our sins by his death. This is the major theme of Romans. Paul wrote earlier, “All are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus....For we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law” (Ro. 3:23,28). By grace, we are justified, not guilty! “And those he justified, he also glorified.” True, our bodies are certainly not in glory now, as we suffer in life, dealing with the ravages of sin in this world and within ourselves. But because Christ, God’s Son, our brother is glorified, it’s as good as done that when we die and rise, we too will be glorified.

These are facts, Paul tells us: God foresaw us, predestined us, called us, justified us, glorified us. Let there be no doubt, then, that all things work together for those who love God. We know that, as we think of how God had shaped us to be believers through our parents, a certain pastor or a teacher; how God sustains us in good times and bad. But what about the bad times in life? How does that work out for our good? Consider Joseph, sold into slavery by his brothers, languishing in an Egyptian jail, framed for a crime he didn’t commit. Yet God worked it out for good when he enabled Joseph to interpret dreams of royal servants in jail, leading him to interpret Pharaoh’s dream, which catapulted Joseph into second-in-command in Egypt to prepare for a coming famine, saving many lives including his own family and the line of the Savior. We may not understand why we had to be diagnosed with cancer, or lose a job, or when a loved one dies, but we know and trust that the God who calls us his children through Jesus will work it out for our good.

Yes, there’s no doubt that God loves us in all things. This led Paul to make a second bold statement: “I am convinced that nothing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

But more doubt rises in our minds. What about my sin? Doesn’t the Bible say, “Your iniquities have separated you from your sins” (Isa. 59:2)? Sin separates us from God. And what about our sufferings? Paul asked, “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?” Sure sounds like those things could separate us from Christ’s love, if people would trouble us, hurt us and even threaten to kill us when we follow Christ; when a tornado rips up homes and even a WELS church and school as happened in Menasha nearly two weeks ago. Don’t those things mean that God doesn’t love us anymore?

“No!” is Paul’s firm answer. “If God is for us”—and that’s not an “iffy” if, God is indeed for us—“who can be against us?” Look at the facts: No one can lay a charge against us because God is the one who justifies us, declares us not guilty. And no one can condemn us, not even Satan, because Christ Jesus died, he rose, he is at God’s right hand, he is even now interceding for us before God the Father. Sin will not condemn us because Jesus paid for it. Jesus has justified us; we belong to him now. Those are facts, that is the truth.

And what about our sufferings and hardships? What if we would even be put to death because we’re believers? “As it is written [Psalm 44:22], ‘For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered. No,’ Paul writes, “in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.” Alexander the Great, Genghis Khan, Napoleon, conquerors all, can’t hold a candle to Jesus who conquered death. In Christ we are super-conquerors!

With Paul, then, let us say: “I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Let there be no doubt! God loves you in Christ Jesus! Amen.