

# *The* GRACE JOURNAL

*"Taking God's Grace to the World"*

A BIBLE STUDY AND NEWS PERIODICAL

---

Volume 26 Number 1

Richard Jordan, Editor

Spring

---

## Maximum Security

BY RICHARD JORDAN

One reason Romans 8 is so beloved by Bible students is found in its closing verses. There Paul sets forth a tremendous argument for the security of those who are in Christ. Coming, as it does, as the conclusion of the second grand doctrinal section of Romans makes it all the more potent.

In Romans Paul lays down the foundational principles of God's grace to us in Christ. Chapters 1-5 begin with the issue of our *justification* in Christ. Here we are grounded in the accomplishments of Christ's death and resurrection *for us*—in what it means to be "*justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus*" (Rom. 3:24).

The next section, chapters 6-8, moves on to our *sanctification* in Christ. Now the issue is not simply Christ *for us* but it becomes Christ *as us*—the importance of our *identification* with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection life. When He died, He died as more than simply a payment for our sins. He also liberated us from the very thing that caused our sinning. Paul declares,

"Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

"For he that is dead is freed from sin.

"Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him...

"For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God" (Rom. 6:6-10).

Christ's death "*for our sins*" frees us from the guilt and penalty of our failures; our death *with Christ*—His death *as us*—liberates us from the power and dominion of sin. Thus the *root* and source of our sinning is dealt with, as well as its *fruit*.

The great principle of the Christian life resides in the fact that in Christ we are "*dead to sin*" and "*alive unto God*." This is how God's grace has equipped us to live as members of the Body of Christ for His glory. He has not simply secured our salvation in eternity future (Rom. 1-5) but has equipped us to live in the "nasty-now-and-now." This equipping is set forth in Romans 6-8 as our new

*Position* "in Christ" (Rom. 6)

*Program* under grace (Rom. 7)

*Power* through the Spirit (Rom. 8).

In Romans 6 we learn that by virtue of being "*in Christ Jesus*" we have been placed into His death, burial and resurrection. This, of course, has radically changed our personal identity and calls for us to moment-by-moment live consistent with this new identity we have in Christ.

Romans 7 then focuses on "*the newness of the Spirit*"—the new program under which God deals with us today. Having enlightened us about being set free from sin's bondage and made alive unto God in Christ, Paul now instructs us about bringing that new position into our practice by living in the newness of the Spirit—and not the oldness of the law system. This new way God has of operating is called grace—we are to live consistent with His program of grace.

Romans 8 moves to the issue of walking consistently with the power of God working in us through His Spirit. The Holy Spirit is mentioned only once previously in Romans. Thus here He seems virtually to burst on the scene in a blaze of activity, appearing 19 times in this one chapter. The

obvious reason for His sudden appearance and activity is found in the fact that the Spirit works through His word. Once the sound doctrine of chapters 1-7 (and especially 6-7) is fixed into our understanding, we can have “*the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus*” working through us as we walk by faith in an intelligent understanding of God’s word to us.

### WHAT SHALL WE SAY?

As he draws this portion to a close, Paul sets forth the certainty of God’s purpose being accomplished (8:28-30) and concludes with a wonderful section on the believer’s resultant security in Christ. He does this by asking a series of questions. This is done for a very specific purpose: to force us to *think for ourselves!* We need to have a personal grasp of these truths so they will have their full impact. Paul wants us to have an *intelligent understanding* of our part in the outworking of the purpose and plan of God.

In doing this, Paul calls attention to four great attributes of God that secure His purpose for us: the *power* of God is “for us” (v. 31), as are His *grace* (v. 32), *justice* (v. 33) and *love* (v. 35).

He also details specific things which seek to thwart the outworking of that purpose. Thus four questions dominate this section:

#### WHO SHALL OPPOSE US?

“If God be for us, who can be against us?” (8:31).

This is our *protection*. God—that is, the Father—is “for us.” In verse 34 we find Christ to be “for us” while in verse 26 we see the Holy Spirit is “for us.” Thus the triune Godhead is “for us.” This adds up to a great conviction of *security* in life—a conviction that should settle our thoughts and keep our minds unconquerable.

God is “for us” in our weakness. God is “for us” in our sickness, in our moments of depression and our seasons of emotional distress. When we doubt, God is “for us.” When we fall, God is “for us.” There is no time, no place, no condition, no circumstance in which God is not “for us.”

May we take courage in this conviction! And how do we *know* that God is “for us”? The *objective evidence* is found in verse 32:

“He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things.”

What God has already done is the demonstration and proof of what He will continue to do. Everything rests on the finished work of Christ at Calvary. There God established both the *precedent* and the *proportion*. The *precedent* is in what He gave—having freely given His own beloved Son for our sins we can be confident He will hold nothing back from us. Having given Christ without reservation or measure, the *proportion* of His giving is clearly “*all things*”—“*all spiritual blessings*,” thus making us “*complete in Christ*” (Eph. 1:3, Col. 2:10).

#### WHO SHALL ACCUSE US?

“Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God’s elect? It is God that justifieth” (8:33).

This is our *perfection*. The argument here is that no one can successfully accuse the believer. First, because of who is being accused—“*God’s elect*,” a position God Himself has declared secure (vs. 29, 30). Then there is the One before whom the accusation is made. If God is the *judge*, He is also the *justifier* (3:26). He has already decided in our favor, already put us on His side and declared Himself to be “for us.”

#### WHO SHALL CONDEMN US?

“Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us” (8:34).

This is our *vindication*. Before any flaw can be found in us, a flaw must be found in Christ Himself or in His death, resurrection, ascension and intercession at the Father’s right hand “for us.” Our security is based on and established by Christ Himself and His work in our behalf. If that isn’t sufficient, nothing ever can be.

#### WHO SHALL SEPARATE US?

“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

“As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter” (8:35,36).

This is our *security*. Here the question concerns our circumstances just as the previous three concerned our character. The focus extends to the battleground of the events in our lives.

“*Who*”—the personal pronoun—is followed by seven impersonal events. This is no mistake, however, for the source of these difficulties is never impersonal, although the events may be. The “*who*” is clearly identified in Ephesians 6:12. And *what* the attempted separation is from thus becomes more understandable—it is “*from the love of Christ*.”

This love was objectively tested in the death of the cross and demonstrated to be something that will not yield to the pressures or oppressions of life. Seven things are listed as constituting the array of weapons employed against us:

*Tribulation*: the multitude of pressures, afflictions and difficulties that are common to life, even to the Christian life.

*Distress*: the narrow “straits” of life from which there seems no way to escape.

*Persecution*: any adverse opinion or treatment of us because of our Christian testimony.

*Famine*: here the weapon becomes economic; it reaches the kitchen, the purse and bank account.

*Nakedness*: the absence of every physical luxury and sometimes even physical necessity.

*Peril*: the dangers of everyday life in a fallen world.

*Sword*: organized government opposition.

In stark words Paul declares that at any moment of life we are ready to surrender our lives for Christ: “*As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter*” (v. 36).

Yet in spite of the various ways difficulties and pressures can come into our lives, Paul exhorts us:

“Nay, in all these things we are MORE THAN CONQUERORS through him that loved us” (v. 37).

“*In all these things*” embraces every possible contingency. It is in these details of life that we are made “*more than conquerors through Him that loved*

*us*.” Who we are is based on who God has made us in Christ. This establishes for us an unchangeable identity which is then accessed by faith.

If our circumstances are adverse, as they often are, we can rest in the identity God has given us in Christ Jesus. When our feelings don’t support the divine viewpoint, our faith can rest in the reality that even then we are “*more than conquerors* through Him that loved us.”

Just what is it to be “*more than*” a conqueror? What more is there than total victory? Wellington, the English Iron Duke, understood something of this when he observed, “It is only when the victory does something for the victor that it means what it ought to mean.”

To “*conquer*” tribulation, for example, would be to end it. But to “*more than*” conquer it would be to turn it for our own good.

General Douglas MacArthur conquered the Japanese Empire. But he did more—he became its *ruler*. To be “*more than*” a conqueror mean to *reign over*—to use the victory for one’s advantage.

Thus to be more than a conqueror over “*tribulation*” is to develop patience through it, thus making it serve in us a good purpose. Hence Paul says,

“And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that TRIBULATION WORKETH PATIENCE” (Rom. 5:3).

To be more than a conqueror over “*distress*” is to become master over the most pressing extremities and circumstances of life, to rise above the restrictions life may place on us and, rather, use them to our advantage (e.g., II Cor. 4:7-18).

To be more than conquerors over “*persecution*” is to become Christ-like toward our persecutor. Instead of descending to the lower levels of carnal fighting, we use the weapons which are spiritual (e.g., I Cor. 4:8-17).

To be more than a conqueror over “*famine*” and “*nakedness*” is to let economic adversity teach us to be content in the wealth of spiritual things (e.g., Phil. 4:10-13).

To be more than a conqueror over “*peril*” and “*sword*” is to have a confident dependence upon God

that gives poise in the midst of impending calamity (e.g., II Cor. 1:3-10).

The completeness of our victory concludes the picture of our security:

“For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come.

“Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (vs. 38, 39).

Here is inseparable love in the midst of every conceivable enemy. It is important to recognize that there is a prescribed sphere where this inseparable love operates. It is “*the love of God IN CHRIST JESUS.*” This is no mere feeling, no simple “warm fuzzy” sentiment. Rather, “in Christ” God Himself has made us completely adequate for every circumstance and task.

In light of the evidence, like Paul we too can be “*persuaded*”—drawn into an unshakeable confidence that nothing can separate us from the love of God.

This is the place of security and peace which adds joy and blessing to our lives as we daily walk by faith in an intelligent understanding of who we are in Christ Jesus our Lord. In a world filled with uncertainty, this is a place of *maximum security*!

## *Rightly Dividing the Word*

THE KEY TO UNDERSTANDING THE BIBLE

The Bible is meant to be understood! This eight-part study by Richard Jordan “lays out” the Bible according to its *own* inspired design. Complete with color chart to follow. If you have ever wanted to understand the Bible *for yourself*, this study is for you!

CD or DVD: \$15

## *Grace School of the Bible*

offers *Bible Edification By Extension*. The unique curriculum base follows the *Pauline Edification Design* and is structured so as to mature and equip students for the work of the ministry in whatever area they may choose.

If you are or desire to be a serious student of the Bible, why not contact us for a free catalogue. Send your request to P.O.Box 97, Bloomingdale, IL 60108, call us at **888.535.2300** or go to **GraceImpact.org**.

## *As Seen On TV*

Our TV broadcast has developed a fourteen part series entitled *Through the Bible In Seven Hours*. Why “*seven hours*”? Well, there is no magic in the number, but frankly, it doesn’t take “forever” to get “the lay of the land.”

Along with the fourteen half hour programs we have a study guide to accompany each lesson. Filled with material we could not squeeze into the program, this 100+ page book is a handy reference guide.

We are grateful for the tremendous reception these programs received. They are now available on DVD for use in Sunday School and Bible classes—or just good home study. They are also a great tool to help introduce friends to rightly dividing the word of truth.

DVD and Book: \$36

Book: \$5 each

Order on-line at **ForgottenTruths.com**

Or by calling **888.535.2300**

Or by writing **The Grace Journal**

## *Forgiveness Matters*

Learn to stop the struggle with guilt and start experiencing the joy of the liberating forgiveness of God given freely in Christ Jesus. In this series by Richard Jordan you will discover how this truth plays itself out in everyday life.

TITLES:

*You CAN Be Forgiveness!*

*Must God Forgive Me Twice?*

*What About I John 1:9?*

*If I’m Really Forgiveness, Why Do I Feel Guilty?*

*You CAN Forgive!*

*Be the First to Forgive*

CD or DVD: \$18

Charge card orders call 888.535.2300

## *Our Meeting In the Air*

An in-depth study of I Thessalonians 4:13-18 by Richard Jordan. Examine the details of the closing events of the dispensation of grace, how they intersect with prophetic events of Israel’s last days and what is in store for believers in “the ages to come.” This twelve part study will both thrill and enlighten you!

CD or DVD: \$18

Charge card orders call 888.535.2300

# *It's Conference Time!*

## July 13-18

Our *Summer Family Conference* is just around the corner—**July 13-18**. This is an event where everyone is warmly welcomed, yet the program is straight-forward and unapologetically anchored in “old time” Bible believing dispensationalism.

We are distinctively “mid-Acts” dispensationalists. We zero in on the clarity of the gospel of grace, the authority of the *King James Bible*, the centrality of our identity in Christ, the importance of premillennialism and the hope of the pre-tribulation rapture, along with our distinctive calling as Ambassadors for Christ. This is genuinely a conference for *grace believers!*

Our theme this year is *Facing the Future With Confidence: Finding Peace In Uncertain Times*. In a day of turmoil, distress and departure from the faith we need both the stability of God's grace as well as the understanding of the rightly divided word more than ever. Powerful preaching and clear exposition of Scripture by experienced men from across the nation will sound the trumpet clearly, boldly, compassionately, courageously.

One special feature this year will be the celebration of the *30th Anniversary of Grace School of the Bible*. After three decades of training soldiers for the work of the ministry we have much in which to rejoice. This is a special milestone we want you to share with us.

The conference location will again be the *Holiday Inn of Rolling Meadows*, Illinois. This Holidome facility provides a relaxed setting as well as numerous recreational activities for the whole family. Rooming reservations should be made directly with our *Conference Reservations*—call **888.535.2300**, email us at **ConferenceInfo@GracelImpact.org** or write to *The Grace Journal*.

This is a conference for the whole family and is the kind of an event where lives are changed, vision is rekindled, hope is created, discouragement is sent packing, energy is renewed. You'll get the pulse of grace-style-ministry fully focused on “*the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery.*”

We're looking forward to seeing you **July 13-18!** Ya'll come!!

ALL CONFERENCE SESSIONS  
WILL BE BROADCAST LIVE  
at **GracelImpact.org**

### NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**A PERSONAL WORD:** As many of our readers know, over the past number of months I have enjoyed a series of maladies ranging from open heart surgery (aortic valve replacement and root repair) to a nasty blood infection. I want to say a special thanks for all the prayer and kind wishes from so many friends. I am now doing well and continue to enjoy the privilege of experiencing the reality of II Cor. 4:15-18 up close and personal.

**OUR WEB SITE HAS BEEN REWORKED AND UP-DATED.** To see what is new go to **GracelImpact.org**. Check back often because we have a number of exciting new things that we will be introducing soon. Also, you can access live weekly teachings as well as a large archive of audio and video studies—and connect with us on Facebook and Twitter!

**THE REGULAR SERVICES** of *Shorewood Bible Church* are broadcast over the Internet each Sunday at 9:30 & 10:45 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. Simply go to **GracelImpact.org** and click the video icon at the appropriate time. If you are in the Chicago area you can attend *Shorewood* in person at 1900 Hicks Road, Rolling Meadows, IL. For more info call 888.535.2300.

**OUR SUMMER CONFERENCE WILL BE BROADCAST LIVE** via the Internet at **GracelImpact.org**. Join us at the scheduled times and enjoy great-grace-preaching!

**THANKS TO SO MANY OF OUR READERS AND FRIENDS** who are standing with us with their financial support. The fruit we are reaping “*abounds to your account*” (Phil. 4:17). One example from our mail: “It is refreshing to log on and listen to your teachings. What I have learned has changed my life forever. Thanks for being there.”

## 30th Anniversary!

*Help us celebrate!*

*Grace School of the Bible* is celebrating its thirtieth anniversary this year. *GSB* came into existence as an endeavor to train men for the ministry of the word rightly divided in our local ministry in Chicago. Through the vision of Allen and Nancy Leach we videoed all the classes, which they then formatted for distribution. While in those days we were way ahead of our times, today such “distant learning” has become common fare across the educational sphere.

The special uniqueness of *GSB*, however, is in our curriculum. Rather than following the standard systematic theology used by most Bible Institutes and Colleges, we have followed the *Pauline Design for Edification*, allowing us to “perfect” men for the work of the ministry thru the Pauline methodology. We now have hundreds of graduates around the world preaching Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery!

Our summer conference will provide a venue for us to celebrate our heritage as we press toward the future.

If we're on the way to glory,  
Joy should fill our soul;  
'Tis done by the Holy Spirit when  
The Spirit has control.  
There are burdens, trials, sorrows,  
But God's abounding grace,  
He says, is all sufficient for  
Every single case.

—J.C. O'Hair

The *Grace Journal*  
P.O. Box 97  
Bloomington, IL 60108

NON PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT #300  
BLOOMINGDALE, IL  
60108

### GRACE IMPACT 2013:

## *Summer Family Bible Conference July 13-18, 2013*

LOCATION:

*Holiday Inn of Rolling Meadows*  
3405 Algonquin Road  
Rolling Meadows, Illinois

THEME:

*Facing the Future With Confidence:*  
FINDING PEACE IN UNCERTAIN TIMES

Gathering in a family friendly, comfortable setting, this will be your opportunity for the whole family to enjoy a week of fellowship around the clear exposition of God's word, rightly divided.

It's not too late to attend. There is no charge for the conference, but if you need housing you should contact our office immediately. Room rates are \$85 for up to four per room, including all taxes and a hot breakfast. A great deal in itself!

Contact us at **888.535.2300** or  
**ConferenceInfo@graceimpact.org.**

## *Forgotten Truths Update*

*FT* can now be seen in the **Chicago** area over the *ION Television* (channel 38) each Saturday at 6:00 a.m. CT. Also, our newest station is *WPXU* in **New York City**, airing each Sunday at 8:00 a.m. & 9:00 p.m. ET.

The program continues on *DirectTV* channel 367 and AT&T's *U-Verse* system channel 578 on Saturday's at 9:00 p.m. ET. We are receiving multiple dozens of first time responses—so many, in fact, that the *FT* office has added staff to handle the work load! A high grade problem! Check out the updated web site and on-line store at **ForgottenTruths.com**—as well as other local airings in **Detroit, Indianapolis, Denver, Colorado Springs, Albuquerque, New Orleans, New York City** as well as **Chicago**.

We also continue with our public-access cable program, *The Message of Grace*. Now in its 24th year of production, this is our original TV effort and is also gathering good response.

Please pray for these broadcasts each week, as the opportunity to take God's word to the world through this media is bearing fruit. We are ever aware of the adversary's attempts to thwart these efforts. This is truly spiritual warfare and we appreciate—and need—your partnership!