

## **The Precious Love of the Lord**

**Sermon Text:** Psalm 36

**Study Texts:** Romans 8:31-39

**Sermon Recap:** The main idea of this week's sermon is this: The precious, steadfast love of the LORD protects and provides for His children. Take time before your growth group to review the key points you noted from this week's sermon.

**Sermon Connection:** In Psalm 36, we are confronted with two great realities: 1) The presence and reality of the wicked, and 2) The steadfast protection of God for His people. These themes stretch throughout the whole of the Bible, and this is exactly the point of Romans 8. Paul, in one of his great Christ-centered passages, holds up Christ as our great hope. Jesus is our hope for salvation from sin, and He is our hope of deliverance from the wickedness of the world. Just as with the Psalmist, we see that the precious, steadfast love of the LORD protects and provides for His children.

### **Lesson Plan**

**Lesson Goal:** To see that our salvation—being from God, and kept by God—protects and keeps the Church from all danger.

#### **Lesson Points:**

**Point 1: God Protects His Children Through *Giving*.** (vv. 31-32)

**Point 2: God Protects His Children Through *Forgiving*.** (vv. 33-39)

**The Context:** Romans 8 falls in the middle of the letter to the Romans. Paul is making the transition from explaining how the gospel is necessary for the salvation of sinful humanity to how the gospel radically transforms and reorders our lives. If we are to rightly understand the latter portion of the letter, which is consumed with gospel-centered commands for living, we must first understand that we are saved in Christ and guarded in Him forever.

### **Point 1 - God Protects His Children Through *Giving*.** (vv. 31-32)

- Paul's words in v. 31, "*What then shall we say to these things?...*" can also be translated, "*To what conclusion do these things lead us?*" To what "things" is Paul referring here? See vv. 26-30.
- What is the purpose/answer to Paul's rhetorical question in the second part of v. 31, "*If God is for us, who can be against us?*"
- Why is it that no one can "*be against*" the children of God? What has God given to ensure their salvation and safety? (v. 32)
- How does v. 32 teach us to trust God's goodness toward His children? What does God give?

### **Point 2 - God Protects His Children Through *Forgiving*.** (vv. 33-39)

- Paul's questions in vv. 33-34 teach us about our sin and the nature of gospel forgiveness. What do these verses teach us about how Christ deals with our sin, and thus, how we should think about and deal with our own sin?
- How should such a theological truth apply to our life within gospel community with one another?
- Consider the 7 circumstances Paul notes in v. 35, and ask how the gospel applies and speaks to such circumstances in life.
- Paul quotes from Psalm 44:22 in v. 36. What is his point in doing so?
- How do vv. 37-39 sum up the truth that God protects and provides for His children?

### **The Big Picture - God protects His children in Jesus Christ.**

The Psalms are rich with deep reminders of God's goodness and His faithful loving-kindness toward His people. He cares for us, protect us, and sustains us, keeping us for Himself. It truly is a comforting truth to know that the precious, steadfast love of the LORD protects and provides for His children. And as we have seen, these truths run throughout the whole of the Bible. Paul goes to great lengths to show how God's protection of His people is clearly seen in the sacrificial death, burial, and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ. God cares for us in that He *gave* Jesus Christ for the *forgiveness* of our sin. That is the only sure and lasting protection from sin for the people of God.

### **Application Questions**

- Am I trusting in Christ alone for the forgiveness of my sin?
- How am I believing that God protects and provides for me? Do my actions reflect my belief?
- How am I teaching my family to trust in God alone?
- How does my life reflect a trust in God's giving of Jesus?
- How can our growth group proclaim this message in our community? Have someone in the group make a list.