

## INTRODUCTION 引言

It is a joyful day as we will witness the baptism of four brothers and two sisters. Whenever we have a baptism, we will emphasize one truth: water will not save us; only Jesus can save us. The teaching that people are saved through baptism cannot be found in the Bible. Water cleans dirt, but only Jesus can forgive sins. The six people are saved the moment when they confessed their sins and accepted Jesus into their hearts. The ceremony today is to witness the salvation they already have. Baptism will not produce faith. But it will strengthen their faith. God will continue to watch over them the rest of their lives. The passage we just read in Romans 8 talks about this assurance. It elaborates what Paul says in verse 30: **And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.** The process of salvation is like a chain reaction. One step will trigger the next. Those whom God decided to save will have opportunities to hear the gospel. Then God will convict them of their sins until they repent. They are saved when they receive Jesus. That is the starting point of their spiritual life. God will preserve them until they see Him in glory. Despite adversity, we have security in Christ through eternity. Once Jesus saved us, we are forever saved and safe.

## EXPLANATION 解釋

### 1. No Indictment 沒有定罪

There are two forms of adversity we will face. The first one is spiritual in nature. We worry if we will lose salvation next time we sin. Paul reminds us that there will be no indictment for those God has saved. Verses 31 to 34 depict a court setting. We are the suspects. Satan is the prosecutor. He uses our past guilt and current sins to accuse us. He causes us to doubt our salvation. Will the devil win the case? Paul discusses the matter with a series of questions and answers. Here is the question: Can anyone accuse those God has saved? The answer is a resounding “no!” Reason 1: verse 31 says: **God is for us.** God is the defense attorney on our side. Moreover, He will pick us up every time we stumble in sin. Reason 2: verse 32 tells us that: **(God will) graciously give us all things.** Paul is not saying that we will get a million-dollar mansion or hit the lottery if we ask God. Stop day-dreaming! Based on the context, those “all things” are the things we need as we walk with the Lord. Examples are like faith, courage, wisdom and discernment. Besides, God promises to provide for our daily needs like food and clothes in other Bible verses. Reason 3 is found in verse 33: **It is God who justifies.** The Father forgives all of our sins – past, present and future – when we received Jesus. Though we will continue to sin in this life, we will not bear the eternal consequence for our sins. Reason 4: verse 34 states that: **(Jesus) is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.** Jesus went back to heaven after His resurrection. He is pleading on our behalf. Whenever Satan condemns us of our sins, Jesus simply says to the Father: “I died for that person too.” There will be no more penalty. The case is closed! It is similar to the concept of “double jeopardy” in the modern legal system. A person cannot be charged a second time for the same crime after the court has made a verdict. If even God does not condemn us, then no one can! Once we are forgiven, we are forever free from the punishment of sin. Our status as God’s children is restored. He stops seeing us as enemies, but

He treats us as family members. We will be shameful next time we commit sin. Such feeling will not cut off our relationship with God. Disobedient children are still kids in the family. Parents love their children but disapprove the bad things they do. The tension is resolved when children apologize for their behavior. Similarly, God gives us a promise to return to Him when we sin in 1 John 1:9 – **If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** God will forgive us if we confess to Him. He will once again wash us clean. His pardon is more powerful than the best detergent.

## 2. No Interruption 沒有攔阻

Besides our sins, the second form of adversity is physical in nature. We said earlier that there is no indictment for our sins. Likewise, there will be no interruption to God's love for us. Just like the previous section, Paul presents his arguments in a question-and-answer format. He asks in verse 35: **Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?** Then he lays out some possible factors that may cause interruption to God's love in verse 35: **Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?** We can interpret those issues in modern terms. They can be physical problems like diseases. They can be financial stress due to a layoff. They can be relational matters such as conflicts at home or at work. They can be threats from enemies or weather. They can even be challenges from non-believers to our faith. Paul has more to add in verses 38-39: **38 ...Neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation...** The source of interruption can be from spiritual agents, either angels who serve God or demons who follow Satan. It can also come from people in authority, such as government officials or your supervisor at work. Paul also includes the factors of time and space. He adds "anything else in all creation" at the end in case he misses anything. Perhaps some of these things are bothering you now. Hand them to God. He gives you a precious promise in verse 37: **No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.** We do not barely win. With God, we trash whatever opponent we may face. Picture it like a game between some NBA players and a high school team. Those students are no match to the pros! In verse 39, Paul wraps up the discussion by echoing the question he asks in verse 35. He says: **(Nothing) will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.** No matter what problem it is, when it will happen or where it will take place, nothing can interrupt God's love for us. This love comes from Jesus. He loved us before we knew Him. He died for us while we were still rebellious in sin. Our circumstances and feelings will change. But God's love for us will never change. Life is full of unknowns. God never guarantees us that we will be trouble-free after we became Christians. Many people in the Bible suffered a lot for their faith. Job lost everything. Daniel was thrown into a lion's den. Even our Lord went through great pain and shame before He died on the cross! No one should welcome troubles. But we should not doubt God's love when problems come. Put your trust in Him. God is like a lighthouse at night. He is like an anchor that secures a boat in a storm. He is like a mom holding her baby. Nothing can interrupt God's love for us.

## 結論 CONCLUSION

Despite adversity, we have security in Christ through eternity. We do not choose God. He chooses us and saves us. We cannot do anything to earn salvation. Nothing can take away the salvation God gives us either. Once we are saved, we are forever safe in the Lord.

## INTRODUCTION 引言

今天是充滿喜樂的一天，因為我們將見證四位弟兄和兩位姐妹的受浸。每當我們有浸禮時，我們都會強調一個真理：水不能救我們，唯有耶穌能救我們。聖經中找不到「人藉著受浸得救」這樣的教導。水能洗去污垢，但唯有耶穌能赦免罪惡。這六位弟兄姐妹是在他們認罪並接受耶穌進入心中的那一刻得救的。今天的儀式是要見證他們已經擁有的救恩。受浸不能產生信心，但它會堅固他們的信心。神會繼續看顧他們一生的道路。我們剛剛所讀的羅馬書第八章談到這份確據，它闡述了保羅在第 30 節所說的：預先所定下的人又召他們來；所召來的人又稱他們為義；所稱為義的人又叫他們得榮耀。救恩的過程就像連鎖反應，一步帶出下一步。神決定要拯救的人會有機會聽到福音，然後神會為罪責備他們，直到他們悔改。他們在接受耶穌的那一刻得救，那是他們屬靈生命的起點。神會保守他們，直到他們在榮耀中見主的面。就算遭遇患難，我們在基督裡擁有安全感，直到永恆。耶穌一旦救了我們，我們就永遠得救、永遠穩妥。

## EXPLANATION 解釋

### 1. No Indictment 沒有定罪

我們將面對兩種形式的患難。第一種是屬靈的。我們會擔心下一次犯罪時是否會失去救恩。保羅提醒我們：神不會再控告那些被祂拯救的人。第 31 到 34 節描繪了一個法庭的場景。我們是被告，撒但是檢控官。他利用我們過去的罪疚感和目前的罪來控告我們，使我們懷疑自己的救恩。魔鬼會贏得這場官司嗎？保羅透過一連串的問題與答案來討論這件事。他的問題是：有誰能控告神所拯救的人呢？答案是絕對沒有！理由一：第 31 節說：神若幫助我們。神是站在我們身旁的辯護律師。此外，每當我們因犯罪跌倒時，祂會再次扶起我們。理由二：第 32 節告訴我們：(神) 把萬物白白的賜給我們。保羅並不是說我們向神求，就會得到百萬豪宅或中樂透。別做白日夢！根據上下文，那些「萬物」指的是我們與主同行時所需要的事物，例如信心、勇氣、智慧和洞察力。除此之外，聖經其他地方也應許神會供應我們日常所需，如食物與衣服。理由三：在第 33 節：有神稱我們為義。天父在我們接受耶穌的那一刻就赦免了我們所有的罪：過去的、現在的，甚至將來的。雖然我們今生仍會犯罪，但我們不需要承受罪的永恆結局。理由四：第 34 節說：(耶穌) 在神的右邊，也替我們祈求。耶穌復活後回到天上，祂不斷為我們代求。每當撒但因我們的罪控告我們時，耶穌只需對天父說：「我也為這個人死的。」就不再有懲罰，案子結束了！這就像現代法律制度中「一罪不二罰」的情形。法院既已裁決，一個人不會因同一罪行再次受審。如果連神都不定我們的罪，那就無人能定罪了！一旦我們蒙赦免，就永遠脫離罪的刑罰。我們作為神兒女的身份得以恢復。祂不再把我們視為仇敵，而是看我們為家人。當我們下

次犯罪時，我們會感到羞愧。但這種感覺不會切斷我們與神的關係。不聽話的孩子仍是家中的孩子。父母愛孩子，雖然不認同他們的壞行為。當孩子道歉時，緊張關係就得以化解。同樣地，神在約翰一書 1:9 給了我們一個應許：**我們若認自己的罪，神是信實的，是公義的，必要赦免我們的罪，洗淨我們一切的不義。**當我們向神認罪時，祂必然赦免我們，再次將我們洗淨。祂的赦免比最強力的清潔劑更有功效。

## 2. No Interruption 沒有攔阻

除了罪之外，第二種患難是身體上的。我們剛才說我們不會再被定罪。同樣地，也沒有任何事物能攔阻神對我們的愛。就像前面的段落一樣，保羅以問答的方式提出他的論點。他在第 35 節問道：**誰能使我們與基督的愛隔絕呢？**接著他列出一些可能攔阻神的愛的因素：**難道患難嗎？困苦嗎？逼迫嗎？飢餓嗎？赤身露體嗎？危險嗎？刀劍嗎？**我們可以用現代的用詞來理解這些問題。這些困難可能是疾病；也可能是因裁員而造成的經濟壓力；也可能是家庭或工作場所中的人際衝突；可能是敵人或天氣帶來的威脅；甚至可能是非信徒對我們信仰的挑戰。保羅在 38–39 節補充說：**38 ...無論是死，是生，是天使，是掌權的，是有能的，是現在的事，是將來的事，39 是高處的，是低處的，是別的受造之物...**造成攔阻的來源可能是屬靈的勢力：無論是服事神的天使，或跟隨撒但的邪靈；也可能是來自掌權者，如政府官員或公司裡的上司。保羅也包含了時間與空間的因素。最後他再加上一句「別的受造之物」，以防他漏掉任何可能的緣故。或許目前有類似這些事情正在困擾你。把它交給神吧。神在第 37 節給了你寶貴的應許：**然而，靠著愛我們的主，在這一切的事上已經得勝有餘了。**我們不是勉強得勝；有神的同时，我們會徹底地打敗一切敵人。想像一下，這就像職業籃球隊和高中隊伍比賽，高中生根本不是對手！在第 39 節，保羅呼應他在第 35 節提出的問題，他總結說：**都不能叫我們與神的愛隔絕。**無論是什麼問題、何時發生、在哪裡出現，沒有任何事情能攔阻神對我們的愛。這份愛是來自耶穌。祂在我們還不認識祂之時就愛我們；當我們仍在罪中悖逆時，祂為我們而死。我們的環境會改變，心情會改變，但神對我們的愛永不改變。人生充滿未知。神從未保證我們成為基督徒之後就一帆風順。聖經裡許多人因信仰受了極大的苦。約伯失去一切；但以理被丟進獅子坑；甚至我們的主在上十字架前也經歷了痛苦與羞辱！沒有人會歡迎苦難，但當困難來臨時，我們不應該懷疑神的愛。你要信靠祂。神就像夜裡的燈塔；像暴風雨中使船穩固的錨；像母親緊緊抱著她的孩子。沒有什麼因素能攔阻神對我們的愛。

## 結論 CONCLUSION

就算遭遇患難，我們在基督裡擁有安全感，直到永恆。不是我們選擇相信神，而是祂揀選並拯救我們。我們無法做任何事來換取救恩，也沒有任何事情能奪走神所賜給我們的救恩。一旦我們得救，我們就在主裡永遠穩妥。