

PAUL'S SUMMATION – ROMANS 8:31-35

Summation at end of a trial

- Summation = A summation is the final or closing argument in a court case where the attorneys review the evidence that has been presented and attempt to persuade the jurors of fact why it should have them rule in their favor.

Summation at end of a trial

- The Bible also uses this process in several places
- **Ecclesiastes 12:13 NLT** That's the whole story. Here now is my final conclusion: Fear God and obey his commands, for this is everyone's duty.
- **Luke 22:27 NLT** Who is more important, the one who sits at the table or the one who serves? The one who sits at the table, of course. But not here! For I am among you as one who serves.

Paul wrote Romans 8 to build up the confidence in God and his plan in the heart of hurting Christians

- It would be easy to look at what they were experiencing and trust their circumstance and eyes rather than the promises of God
- Paul wrote Romans 8 not for theologians but Christians walking through the messy middle of life

Paul wrote Romans 8 to build up the confidence in God and his plan in the heart of hurting Christians

- He started with **Romans 8:1-2 NIV** Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.

Paul wrote Romans 8 to build up the confidence in God and his plan in the heart of hurting Christians

- He ends his teaching in **Romans 8:28-30 NIV** 28 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. 29 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. 30 And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

Paul wrote Romans 8 to build up the confidence in God and his plan in the heart of hurting Christians

- All along the way Paul gave us the why these truths are real and what foundational truths they sit upon
- Now he comes to place where he gives us his summation and he does this by asking questions to lead us to a certain conclusion

- **Romans 8:31-34 NIV** 31 What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If (Since) God is for us, who can be against us (that matters)? 32 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? 33 Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. 34 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.

- **Philippians 4:8-9 NIV** 8 Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—**think about such things**. 9 Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—**put it into practice**. And (then) the God of peace will be with you.

- **Psalms 19:14 NIV** May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.
- Christian meditation is a form of prayer in which a structured attempt is made to become aware of and reflect upon the revelations of God

- **Psalms 19:14 NIV** May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.
- It the process of deliberately focusing on specific thoughts (such as a bible passage) and reflecting on their meaning in the context of the love of God
- Paul helps us in this by asking us questions to meditate on, but he also gives us his conclusions

Question 1 - What, then, shall we say in response to these things?

- This should be our question to ourselves after every reading of God's truth, after every experience where God reveals Himself, after every personal failure
- If you take all the truth Paul has laid out, what conclusion should you reach?

Question 1 - What, then, shall we say in response to these things?

- If (Since) God is for us, who can be against us?
- Who can prevent God from doing for me all He has promised?

Question 1 - What, then, shall we say in response to these things?

- There is a play on words Paul uses here
 - For us – Over and above, In behalf of or for the sake of
 - ❖ Carries the idea of protection and care
 - Against us – Down from, motion of movement down from a higher position

Question 1 - What, then, shall we say in response to these things?

- God has picked us up from our low sinful, rebellious nature and has raised us up to a place of sonship
- Paul's question is, "Who or what power can reach into the throne room of God and forcibly remove you from His family?"
- And the answer is no one, no thing, no power that is seen or unseen

Question 1 - What, then, shall we say in response to these things?

- Seriously, if 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 (promised)?

Question 1 - What, then, shall we say in response to these things?

- Along with him – Both God the Father and our Lord Jesus in agreement
 - We are tied to the Lord Jesus Christ together
 - Roman punishment of tying a corpse to a living person
- Not just giving Jesus for the forgiveness of sins but everything God has promised

Question 1 - What, then, shall we say in response to these things?

- This truth does not mean there will never be anyone or anything that stands against you in this life
 - Even your enemy the Devil still has access to you here
 - The world and its desires still have access to you here
 - Your old nature still has access to you here

Question 1 - What, then, shall we say in response to these things?

- But nothing can prevent or even hinder God's promises from becoming real in your life, both here and throughout eternity
- The undeniable conclusion is God must be for all of us who are in Christ Jesus by faith

Question 2 - Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen?

- Imagine someone attempting to manipulate God into casting us out, by bringing an accusation before God about our sin

Question 2 - Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen?

- **Revelation 12:10 NIV** Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: “Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Messiah.
- For the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down.

Question 2 - Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen?

- He might very well accuse us of sin in order to convince God of our unworthiness to be in His family
- Or it might come from our own heart and the awareness of our sin, hinting that God could never forgive such things, could never love one who does them

Question 2 - Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen?

- Paul states, “It is God who justifies.”
 - Justify – To declare or make righteous in the sight of God
- God does not wink at our sin and rebellion
- He understands everything about us without error

Question 2 - Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen?

- We stand right before God, not because of us, but solely because of our faith and of the finished work of Jesus Christ
- God declares us righteous because of our faith in Christ, giving us credit for Jesus' righteousness and accepting Jesus' death as payment for our sins

Question 2 - Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen?

- God will never say, “You’ve made a good point. I was wrong to justify them.”
- His decision stands since it is based on Christ’s own sacrifice and righteousness, not on our ability to do what is right ourselves or keep what was given us
- Louie Giglio, “Once you’re alive in Christ, you can’t do anything to write yourself out of the story of God.”

Question 3 - Who then is the one who condemns?

- So, who can condemn us to eternal death once in the family of God?
- Sounds sort of like the same question just answered
- We must remember the Believers Paul is writing to did not have much if any of the New Testament, especially Romans to guide their beliefs
- What they did have was history of absolute rulers and the atrocities they did to their own families

Question 3 - Who then is the one who condemns?

- King Herod
 - The king also executed his sons Alexander and Aristobulus in 7 B.C., and Antipater II, Herod's oldest son (whom he had with another wife) in 4 B.C. Herod accused the three sons of trying to kill him.

Question 3 - Who then is the one who condemns?

- King Herod
 - Everett Ferguson - Though it may be true that Herod was an extremely able ruler, it is also true that he was intensely jealous of his position. He killed the two sons of Mariamne when his suspicions were aroused that they might become the rallying point for Jewish patriotism. Mariamne herself was killed when his mind was poisoned against her by his sister.

Question 3 - Who then is the one who condemns?

- So, they were in the family of the king but still there was one in power that had the authority to condemn them to death
- So, Paul has successfully instructed us that we are part of God family

Question 3 - Who then is the one who condemns?

- But is there one that can still condemn us like Herod did his family?
 - **Vs. 34** 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.

Question 3 - Who then is the one who condemns?

- Not only did Christ die for us but he also was raised up for us so He could be our Great High Priest interceding for us
 - Intercede - To act or insert oneself between one thing and another, in behalf of someone in difficulty or trouble
- Everything pertaining to us must pass through Jesus Christ

Question 3 - Who then is the one who condemns?

- Jesus is there to stand on our behalf before God the Father and make a way for believers to have access to God
- Jesus is presently in heaven, advocating on our behalf against the accusations of Satan
- Be at peace, there is no other authority that has or ever will have the power to condemn us eternally
- Our eternal future is sealed

Ending

- All of this must be understood in relationship with verse **28-30** God works for good to those who love Him, and He has predestined us as born-again children to be conformed to the image of his Son

The Bear

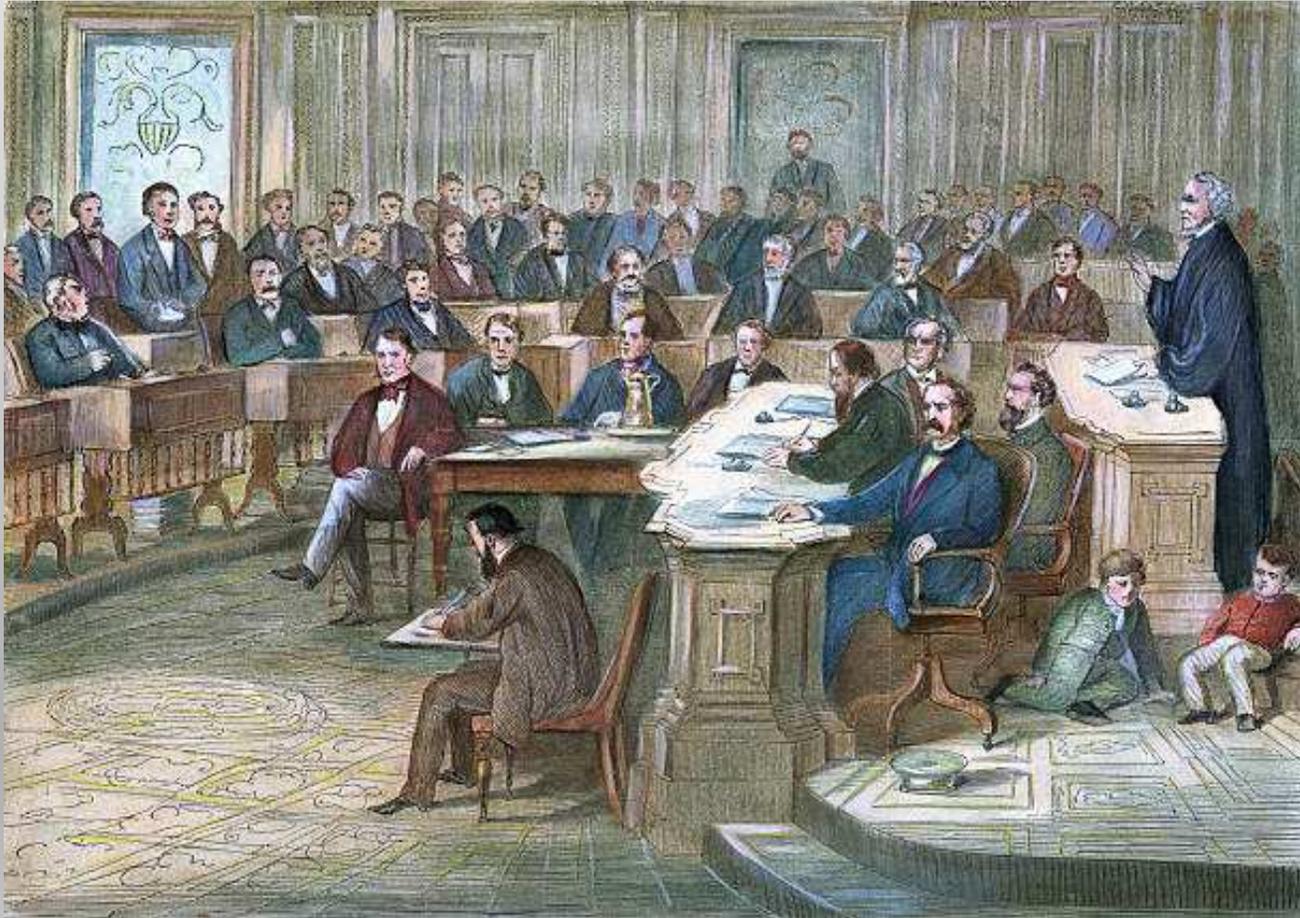
- In one of the final scenes of the movie “The Bear” a little grizzly cub is being attacked by a mountain lion. The life of the little cub seems to be in great danger as the mountain lion moves in for the kill. Suddenly, the baby bear rears up on its hind legs letting out the fiercest growl it can muster. Amazingly, the mountain lion shrinks back. The camera slowly draws back to reveal just behind the cub a massive grizzly, reared on his hind legs, delivering a fierce warning to the mountain lion.

The Bear

- The cub's enemy was great. But in the protective shadow of the great grizzly, that mountain lion was nothing.

The Bear

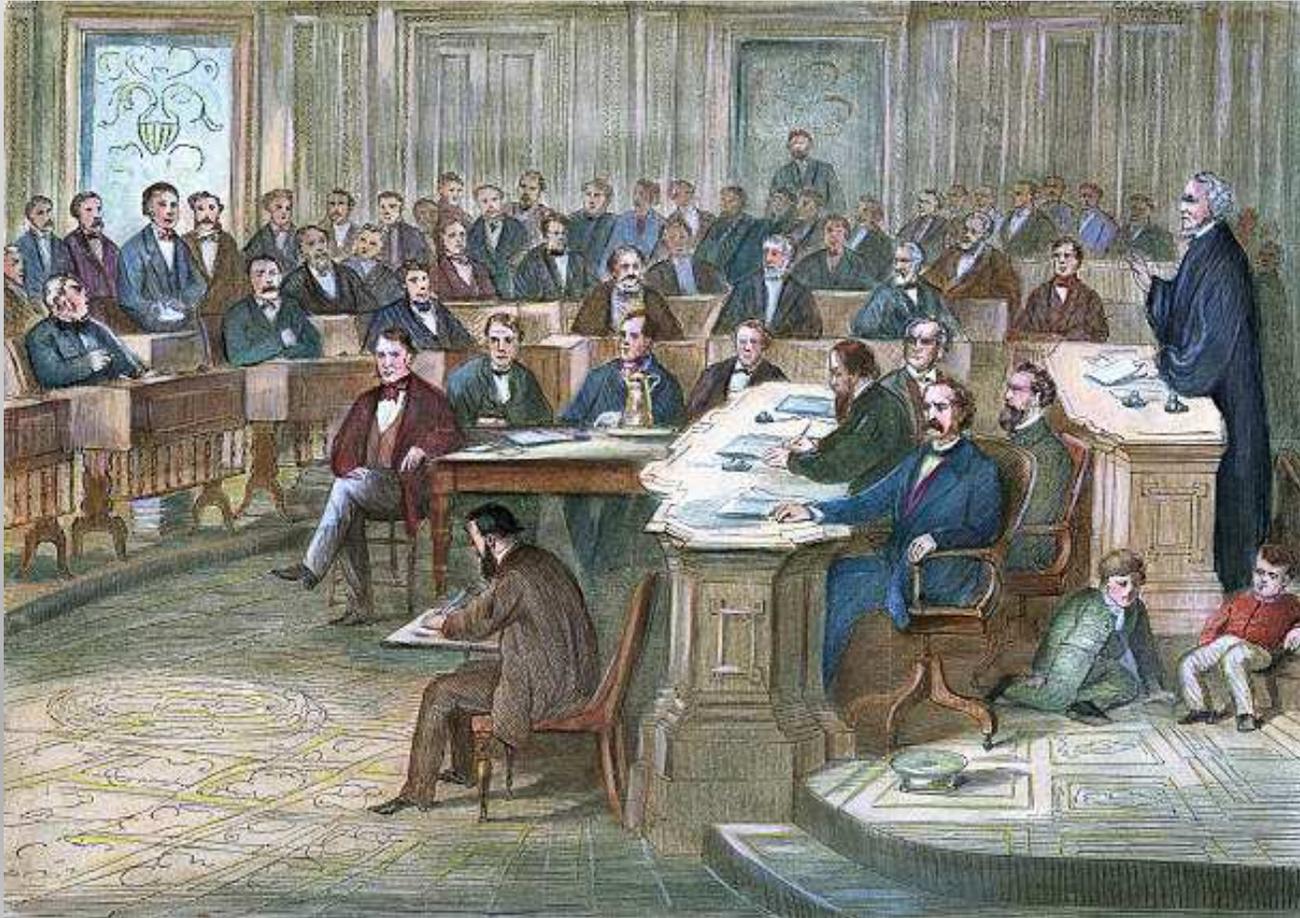
- **Psalms 91:1-2 NIV** 1 Those who live in the shelter of the Most High will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty. 2 This I declare about the Lord: He alone is my refuge, my place of safety; he is my God, and I trust him.
- What does this say to us about being in the shadow of our amazing Father God?



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Announcements

- Wednesday, 7:00, Soup Night, Everything provided
- Sunday School Kickoff – November 29th at 9:30
- Lottie Moon Foreign Missions Offering
- Baptism– November 29th after services



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