



water from rock

Selah: Stop, Look, Listen – July 30, 2022

The Lord be with you.

Albert Einstein said that he thought the most important question facing humanity was if the universe was friendly... Well, that is an interesting question, isn't it? Asked by a man, certainly a genius, but a man who didn't think much beyond atoms and electrons and physical existence... No, I have a better question. A more wonderful question. And that is the question asked by the Apostle Paul in Romans chapter 8, verse 31, What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? That's a better question. And then whether the universe is friendly or not. If God is for us, who is against us? That's a question with which I like to take on every day, If God is for us, who was against us? Now, if you have your Bible open to this eighth chapter of Romans, notice this question comes at a chapter in which the apostle Paul is astounded by the infinite unconditional love for you and me. Paul talks through Romans Chapter 8, about how there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. He talks about how God by grace has adopted us making us sons and daughters of God, he talks about how God works all things together for good. To make us more like Jesus, that we might forever share his life and glory. And so all of that leads Paul to this question, If God is for us, who is against us?

Now, when Paul asked who was against us, that's not to say that you and I that we don't have enemies, because we do, but God is greater than any enemy that we face. Now, as proof that God is for us, that he's on our side, that is cheering in helping us along. Paul says in the next verse, verse 32, God who did not withhold His own Son, but gave Him up for us all, will He not with Him also give us everything else. Follow Paul's thinking here. Paul is arguing from the greater to the lesser. He's arguing from the difficult to be easy. I mean, if God has done the greater thing of giving His Son for us, then will God not give you and me everything else that we need in this life and the life to come? If God gave his most precious, his most infinitely costly gift in His Son for us, then we need never doubt that God will give us anything else that we really need. If God made the greatest possible sacrifice for us, Paul says that we can know that God will give us, everything else.

Paul is not promising that God will give us necessarily a bigger house or a larger salary. Rather this is a promise of something far greater, he says everything else, that means that God will give you and me everything else that is ever needed for this life and the life to come. Will He not with Christ, he says, give us everything else. God has already given us everything in giving us His



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son. He holds nothing back for true happiness in this life and eternity, and that means that one day we will see that God has held literally nothing back that would make for our eternal happiness. Enjoy. No wonder Paul says, If God is for us, who is against us? That means we can't lose.

Today, you might be feeling discouraged, you might be worried about problems you're facing, God is for you. Your life is wrapped up safe and secure because God is for you. Look at the cross. The cross is God's guarantee that he is for you and that God will stop at nothing to give you all that you need. Apologies then to Dr. Einstein as the question is not, is a universe friendly? The question is, if the God of the universe is for us. And the God and Creator of the universe is for you and me.

So why not take this up as a model. Say it in the morning when you get up. Say it at night. Say it during the day. If God is for us, who is against us? And if you ever doubt it, look at the cross and see there that God is for you.

I am Tim Smith, the fellow traveler. Thanks for listening until next time.