

# Wow! God Is for Us!

Tuesday 12/31 at 6:00

New Year's Eve – 2019

**Introduction:** Dear friends in Christ:

By God's grace and through His gift of faith **✠**we know the Father and His Son, **✠**we have the Holy Spirit living within us, and **✠**we believe the Bible is the inerrant (without error) and infallible (incapable of error) Word of God! Nevertheless, *sometimes*, we can feel like ☹our sins are not forgiven, ☹God has abandoned us, and ☹evil will ultimately win.

On this New Year's Eve 2019, may God work in our hearts and minds – *by His Spirit through His Word* – to convince us that no matter what we are ➡thinking, ➡feeling, or ➡experiencing, **GOD IS FOR US!!!**

1. **How Is God for Us?** In **Romans 8**, Paul wrote some words of encouragement in the form of questions:
  - a. <sup>31</sup> **If God is for us, who can be against us?** // The answer is no one! Why? *Since God is **almighty** and **with us**, no one can succeed against us!*
  - b. <sup>32</sup> **He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?** // Since God has already given us His greatest treasure – His own Son, *He will also give us everything else we need!*
  - c. <sup>33</sup> **Who shall bring any charge against God's elect?** // No one! Why? Because **"It is God who**

**justifies.”** Since God has made us just in His sight thru Jesus, *all charges have been dismissed!*

- d. <sup>34</sup> **Who is to condemn?** // The answer is no one! **Why?** Because **“Christ Jesus is the one who died-- more than that, who was raised-- who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.”** // **Did you note the four reasons why we cannot be condemned?** Jesus ✓died, ✓was raised, ✓ascended, and ✓is praying to the Father on our behalf!
- e. <sup>35</sup> **Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?** // The answer is no one! And then Paul wrote, **“Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? //** Those are horrible things, *but even they cannot separate believers from God’s love!*
- i. Then, *to help us understand that suffering is not defeat*, Paul wrote: <sup>36</sup> **As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”** // In other words, *believers appear to be losers*. But then Paul wrote, <sup>37</sup> **“No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.”** // So, IN CHRIST, *we are always winners!*
- ii. Finally, *to eliminate everything that could result in separation*, Paul wrote, <sup>38</sup> **“For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup> nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all**

creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

2. **How has God Shown His Support?** Let's consider *three seemingly impossible situations* in which God gave a very strong victory! In each case, let us remember that these victories *pointed ahead to Jesus' ultimate victory over sin, death, and the devil*:
- a. Pharaoh's army versus the Israelites: This true story is recorded in **Genesis 14**: As a result of the ten plagues, the Israelites had just left their slavery in Egypt and – *because of the LORD's leading* – were camped by the Red Sea. They numbered many people, *but they had no weapons*. They were trapped by the sea and about to be destroyed by ✓ Pharaoh, ✓ his officers, ✓ all the horses and chariots of Egypt, and ✓ his army. Then, *when defeat seemed certain*, the LORD ✦ stepped in, ✦ parted the sea, and ✦ provided a way of escape; then, *when everyone from Egypt pursued them*, they were all drowned! ***The situation for the Israelites seemed impossible, but God was for them!!***
  - b. Goliath versus David: This true story is recorded in **1 Samuel 17**: The Philistine and Israelite armies were in a battle line against each other. Then Goliath, the Philistine champion – *who was over 9 feet tall* – said to the Israelites, “**Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to me. If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will be your servants. But if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall be our**

servants and serve us” (8-9 ESV). However, every Israelite was afraid to accept the challenge except David – who was young and only a shepherd. What happened? “David... took out a stone and slung it and struck the Philistine on his forehead. ...he fell on his face to the ground.... Then David ran and stood over the Philistine and took his sword and drew it out of its sheath and killed him and cut off his head... (49-51 ESV). ***The situation for David seemed impossible, but God was for him!!***

- c. Assyria versus Jerusalem: This true story is recorded in **2 Kings 18 – 19**: Assyria, *the world power at that time*, made this HUGE threat against King Hezekiah, *who was reigning over Judah from Jerusalem*, “Thus says the king [of Assyria]: ‘Do not let Hezekiah deceive you, for he will not be able to deliver you out of my hand. Do not let Hezekiah make you trust in the LORD by saying, The LORD will surely deliver us...’” (18:29-30 ESV). What happened? “...that night the angel of the LORD went out and struck down 185,000 in the camp of the Assyrians” (19:35 ESV). ***The Situation for Jerusalem seemed impossible, but God was for Hezekiah and the people of Jerusalem!!***

**Let Us Pray:** F, S, and HS, whenever things seem impossible for us, let us remember that YOU ARE FOR US – now, in 2020, and forevermore!

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