



[Rev. Steven S. Billings](#)

**Sermon for New Year's Eve**  
December 31, 2025

## God for Us

### Romans 8:31b–39

*<sup>31b</sup> If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? <sup>33</sup> Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup> Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. <sup>35</sup> Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? <sup>36</sup> As it is written:*

*"For Your sake we are killed all day long;  
We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter."*

*<sup>37</sup> Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. <sup>38</sup> For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, <sup>39</sup> nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

"If God is for us, who can be against us?" Those are words of confidence all Christians need on their lips and in their lives every day of 2026 and forever.

If God is for us. How do we know He is? God, who cannot lie (Titus 1:2), says He is. He said it over and over in the Old Testament. And the Promise is repeated in the New.

"God, Who did not spare His own Son..." Even though He had no guilt, had done no wrong, and owed us nothing but damnation for our rebellion, God did not spare His own Son, but "delivered Him up for us all" on the cross.

We sometimes read of heroes who risk or even give their lives for others: rushing into burning buildings, climbing dangerous cliffs, or pulling a child from a burning car. Soldiers die for noble causes like freedom, honor, or security. But that is NOT the case with God. God sent His Son to die for His enemies (5:8), for people who stubbornly choose to burn in hell and prefer the slavery of sin and dishonor rather than to be His own people. "He came to His own, but His own did not receive Him" John says.

So, God – who seems wasteful when it comes to His mercy and grace: "delivered up His only-begotten Son for us all," to take our place in life and death, sending Jesus to be "stricken, smitten, and afflicted by God" for all our iniquities and transgressions. Since God was willing to do THAT for us, surely He will be willing to do even more for us.

By the cross of Christ, we know that we've been declared righteous before God. We



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are justified. Our debt of sin is paid. "It is finished."

So: Who can bring a charge against anyone whom God has elected – chosen – to be His? We're not justified by anything we've done or can do. We're saved by grace alone (Ephesians 2). And God has already declared that our sins are paid for.

Who can condemn us? No one. Christ died for us. He rose on Easter and Ascended into heaven to be our Intercessor to plead for us before the Throne of God.

Paul, then, together with Christians of every time and place, asks: "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?" Oh, plenty of things try! Roman Emperors have crucified Christians, thrown them into pits with wild animals, put tar on them and burned them alive, and things too ghastly to mention. Monsters like Stalin persecuted Christians through execution, labor camps, imprisonment, or exile to places like Siberia.

Muslims have persecuted Christians, even beheading them in their misguided zeal. Christians in many places around the world today have given their necks to the noose or the sword, their bodies to the jail cell, or some other form of torture and misery, rather than deny Christ. It's been said that more people have died for the Name of Jesus in the past 100 years than in all the years since His birth. The list of people, religions, and governments who want Christianity wiped out is long and ever growing. They want you and me to be separated and torn away from Christ. Why?

Because evil hates God. The forces of evil – whether spiritual or material – can't bear the holiness of God or anything connected to it: and that includes you and me and all Christian congregations.

Together with St. Paul and all Christians, you and I trust that though all these antagonists TRY to separate us from the love of Christ, the Cross is the accomplished fact that says we are His. We are certain, by the message of the cross, that we are MORE than conquerors – not conquerors who destroy armies, cities, or properties. No, we who are in Christ Jesus, are conquerors over sin, death, and hell.

Of course, we don't always look like conquerors, do we. Someone dying of cancer may look conquered. But, even though his departure from this world is difficult, in Christ he is a conqueror.

A person scorned for their Christian virtues may suffer cruel mockery in this life, but in Christ she is a conqueror.

Conquerors in Christ can endure vicious gossip, a greedy boss, an auto accident, a challenging job, an unfaithful spouse, or any fearsome circumstance, because they know that their life is in the Lord's hands because they have been purchased by God through the blood of Jesus, and God takes care of His own.

Disability, disease, family struggles, even war, need not distract a believing child of God from their journey through this valley of sorrow and the shadow of death, for they know where this path leads: it follows our Saviors own journey through the cross and the



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grave into the glorious courtyard of heavenly mansions, where we will see Him seated at the right hand of the Father, ruling all things for the sake of those He has chosen by grace through faith. The fallen world may seem to have you by the throat, ready to steal your life from you. But there is another hand, Jesus tells us, that holds your eternal life, and nothing can snatch you from the Father's hand (John 10:28).

Yes, MANY things in life will try to separate you from the love of God in Christ in 2026. But "neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate you from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

God, who is our Help in ages past and our Hope for years to come, has proven time and time again that He is for us; and will be for us in 2026, for our eternal God is ALREADY in 2026, and He is in all the years, months, weeks, days, hours, minutes, seconds, and any other division of time you can think of, that may be ahead of you and me. He is present in all times and places, even to the End of the world.

Beloved, since God is for us, as He has demonstrated throughout history, especially on the cross of Christ, who can be against us in 2026?

Surely all who hate God will do what they can – maybe even take our life – rather than admit they're defeated. But in Christ, we are more than conquerors in this coming year; God has promised it.

May He work greater faith in you and me, using the tools He's given us – His Word and Sacraments – that we may increase in faith, hope, and love in 2026 and beyond.

May the Holy Spirit give you and me unshakable confidence in the power and forgiveness of the cross of Christ, that we may boldly live out our faith.

May the peace of God, which surpasses understanding, keep your hearts and minds in + Christ Jesus to life everlasting. Amen