



Text: Romans 8:28-39 (v. 31b)<sup>1</sup>  
Series: Right Living, Part 12  
Title: Six Reasons for Security  
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Have you noticed the number of ads on TV for retirement savings and financial security plans?

Advertisers are keying on our concern regarding financial security. There seem to be a lot of mutual fund ads, and RRSP ads, etc.

Maybe it's just me? I'm 51 and I'm beginning to think more and more about the next 14 years of my life: one daughter is married; another is engaged; my son is heading off to Bible school in Austria. The last three and a half months of sabbatical leave were like a kind of preview of what retirement will be like.

But it seems that the concern for financial security is increasing for others as well. There are a lot of people like me, Baby Boomers who are in the "retirement window" -- key interest earning years.

A few years ago someone projected the collapse of the CPP by the year 2018 and this only increased our anxiety about security. As a result people are using all kinds of private savings vehicles to shore up their financial portfolio. But we can't even be sure that private investment schemes will provide us with the financial security we desire. Some years ago a close family member of mine lost a very significant amount of their retirement savings as a result of unwise investments by their mutual fund broker.

Who can we trust? In what can we place our trust? What can provide us with real, lasting security?

This morning, I want to give you six reasons to place your future security in God's hands.

God has a good purpose for your future and it will not fail. Notice Paul's words...

**“And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.” Romans 8:28**

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<sup>1</sup> Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Used by permission, All rights reserved.



If you love him (ie. in other words, if you have put your faith and trust in Christ) then He's got a wonderful purpose for your life.

Do you love God?

Are you grateful for His gift of salvation?

Do you desire to have His life gain more control of your life?

Do you wonder at his purpose in saving you?

Here's His purpose for you and me in a nutshell:

**“For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son” Romans 8:29**

We're going to be made like God's Son, Jesus Christ:

We're going to receive new bodies that will never grow old and get sick and die...

We're going to be given new natures that will never cause us anger and fear and loneliness and shame...

We're experience life forever with God in peace and joy and love.

Does it sound too good to be true? Can you be sure it will be waiting for you at the end of the line? When you go to collect on the promise, will it be there for you?

Let me give you **six reasons** that you can be certain that God's purpose for you will be fulfilled.

### ***First, God has the plan***

Paul gives us the outline of God's plan for us...

**“For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.”**

**Romans 8:29-30**

Some purposes fail because of inadequate planning. As the old saying goes, "we need to plan our work and then work our plan."

The Spanish Armada of 1588 was one of the greatest fleets to ever set sail. 100s of ships, 1000s of soldiers and sailors, armament of all kinds set sail to conquer England. You may have heard the story that the smaller, more agile English ships were able to sail under the guns of the great Spanish galleons and fire directly into the ships just above the water-line, scuttling the hopes of Philip II to conquer England. But what you might not have heard is that by the time the



Spanish fleet had reached England, the Spanish sailors and soldiers were so sick from food poisoning that even if they had reached the shore they probably couldn't have done much damage to the English. The barrels that had been used to pack the food were made of unseasoned wood -- as the wood dried, it shrank, causing the barrels to lose their seal and resulting in spoilage of the food inside.

The great general Napoleon stated that an army marches on its stomach. With rotten food, an army can't march very far! The Spanish had invested considerable effort in their invasion plans but the small, little unseen microbes that cause food poisoning defeated them.

Our best laid plans, as Robbie Burns once said, "oft gang agaly" -- our plans go wrong! But the plans of God never go wrong because they've been carefully laid and implemented.

God's plan for us was conceived in **eternity past** -- He foreknew and predestined a purpose for our lives even before we were even born. God set His love on us even before we existed. The Apostle John tells us that God "first loved us" because he loved us before we were even born.

God's plan for us was implemented in **the living present** -- He called us and drew us to put our trust in Christ. Then he declared us just -- pardoned of our sin and gifted with the righteousness of Christ.

God's plan for us will be fulfilled in **eternity future** -- He will glorify us. Notice that Paul speaks of our being "glorified" in the past tense. With God, it's already a done deal!

God's got the plan -- trust Him!

### ***Secondly, God has the authority***

Some plans fail because we don't have the authority to carry them out.

Fred<sup>2</sup> is one of the best organized men I've ever met. He was the pastor responsible for music, Christian Ed and administration in a church I used to attend. Fred is the kind of guy who has Easter planned even before Christmas is over. Fred is the consummate planner.

But year after year, Fred's planning genius met its match in the "AIR CONDITIONER." For years, Fred prepared proposal after proposal for the church board regarding an air conditioning system. And year after year, the board turned him down.

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<sup>2</sup> Not his real name



The plans were excellent -- product, prices, work estimates, projected benefits -- all done with Fred's usual thoroughness. But Fred didn't have the authority to put them into practice. He needed the board's approval to spend the money and get the work done.

Paul asks....

**“If God is for us, who can be against us?” Romans 8:31b**

If God says, “You’re justified” – you ARE justified!

If God says, “I’m going to glorify you” – you WILL BE glorified!

If God says, “I am going to make you like my Son” – you WILL BE like Jesus!

Why? Because God has the power and the authority to make things happen according to His will.

Men and women shaking their fists at God can't stop Him!

Dictators and godless governments can't stand against Him!

Satan can't stand against Him!

Satan had to get God's permission to tempt Job. Even Satan's attacks against us happen under God's authority.

You might feel today like Jacob when he said...

**“Everything is against me.” Gen 42:36 (NIV)**

Jacob thought that his son Joseph was dead. A second son, Simeon, was a prisoner in Egypt and he believed he was about to lose a third son, Benjamin, to the same fate. “Everything is against me,” he thought. But that wasn't the real situation.

Joseph wasn't dead. He had been taken away to Egypt secretly as a slave but was now the prime minister of Egypt. Joseph had imprisoned his brother Simeon as a way of testing his brothers' love for him. And he was now asking that Benjamin be sent to Egypt, not for imprisonment but for a reunion. Jacob had everything exactly wrong! Everything appeared against him, but in reality everything was for him!

“Everything is against me!” he cried -- but everything was really for him!



You might be trapped in a tough circumstance today that look as if everything is against you but...

**If God is for you, *who* can be against you?**

**If God is for you, *what* can be against you?**

We can say to “these things,” to every kind of circumstance, in every hard experience of life...

**“If God is for us, who can be against us?” Romans 8:31**

Paul invites us to “say” this truth to the circumstances we face so let me encourage you to join me this morning and let’s say it together...

**“If God is for us, who can be against us?” Romans 8:31**

God’s got the authority – trust Him to accomplish his purposes for you.

***Thirdly, God has the commitment***

Some plans fail because we lack the commitment to complete them.

Have you got unfinished tasks in your life? I have.

“The Thesis” -- 304 pages of research awaiting an introduction and conclusion. Planned, researched, reworked, etc.

What keeps me from finishing it? Commitment.

Do you wonder if God has the commitment to complete what He has begun in you?

Notice what Paul wrote...

**“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?” Romans 8:32**

God has promised us “everything we need for life and godliness.” (2 Pet. 1:3 NIV) He has promised us the clothing that we need and the food that we need if we will “seek first his kingdom and his righteousness. – “all these things” will be given to us as well. (Matt. 6:33 NIV)

How can we be sure? By taking a look at what he gives us as his “good faith” bond -- the death of His own son!



That's how committed God is to accomplishing His purpose for our lives -- He was willing to give the life of His own Son.

God has the commitment -- trust Him!

#### ***Fourthly, God has the integrity***

Plans can fail sometimes because for no fault of their own people and conditions change.

Friends of mine in Toronto, Sam & Mabel<sup>3</sup>, purchased a retirement condo in Florida. Their plan was to spend six months of the year in Florida and the remaining six months at Christian retreat centre in Ontario. Sam had severe orthopedic problems and he was looking forward to the warm Florida winters to ease his pain. They were looking forward to retirement with great anticipation and longing.

But their plans went up in smoke. Just as they were about to retire Blue Cross changed their policies. They would no longer cover "previously existing medical conditions" – Sam's health was not good and their projected insurance costs suddenly went from a few dollars for six months to well over \$1200 for just a few weeks. They were devastated! Circumstances changed and their plans were destroyed.

Paul wrote...

**"Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies."  
Romans 8:33**

God's Word is His bond. God has declared you "justified" – he won't change His mind!

Nothing that Satan can drag out of our pasts will make Him change His declared plan for you – God's plan for us covers all our "previously existing conditions" and all our subsequent ones, too!

God has integrity -- trust Him!

#### ***Fifthly, God has the power***

Plans fail because we do not have the strength or resources to complete them.

Jesus warned his disciples about beginning a plan without taking into consideration whether they could finish what they had begun...

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<sup>3</sup> Not their real names



**“For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’” Luke 14:28-30**

Do you wonder if God has the ability to keep his promise? Look at what he did for Jesus.

God demonstrated his commitment to our redemption in the death of his Son -- but he demonstrated his power to accomplish our redemption in the resurrection of Jesus. Paul reminds us that Jesus died for us but “more than that,” the Father raised him to life again! Paul wrote...

**“Who is to condemn? 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.” Romans 8:34**

Jesus died, the Father raised him to life, seated him at His right hand and constantly receives intercession from Him for us.

God has promised to make us into Christ’s likeness so if you want to know what God will do for you look at what He has done for Jesus!

A few years ago I called College Pro painters and asked them to give us an estimate on painting our house in Coaldale. A young man came to do our estimate. While he was doing the outside estimate, he gave us a prospectus -- a book of photos of other homes they had done with comments from satisfied customers. The purpose of the prospectus was to suggest that if College Pro painters can satisfy these homeowners, they’ll be able to satisfy us.

Jesus is God’s prospectus for us. If you want to know what God will do for you, take a look at Jesus.

God’s got the power -- trust Him!

### ***Finally, God has the heart***

Some plans fail because the circumstances become too difficult and people lose heart.

Some people won’t stop regardless of how difficult the circumstances might seem. The news these days is full of the story of the contest for the American presidency. See if you can tell which president this might have been...



*When he was seven years old, his family was forced out of their home on a legal technicality, and he had to work to help support them. At age nine, his mother died. At 22, he lost his job as a store clerk. He wanted to go to law school, but his education wasn't good enough. At 23, he went into debt to become a partner in a small store. At 26, his business partner died, leaving him a huge debt that took years to repay. At 28, after courting a girl for four years, he asked her to marry him. She said no. At 37, on his third try he was elected to Congress, but two years later, he failed to be reelected. At 41, his four-year-old son died. At 45, he ran for the Senate and lost. At 47, he failed as the vice-presidential candidate. At 49, he ran for the Senate again, and lost. At 51, he was elected president of the United States. His name was Abraham Lincoln, a man many consider the greatest leader the [United States] ever had. [As one writer on Lincoln's life summarized his career]: Some people get all the breaks. © 2008 PreachingToday.com Unknown, Leadership, Vol. 4, no. 1.*

Some people just don't know when they are beaten! Paul asks...

**“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? .... For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 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.” Romans 8:35, 38-39**

God will not be beaten by circumstances! Trouble and hardships, hunger and want, danger and persecution -- nothing will derail his purpose for us!

God will not be beaten by spiritual powers! Angels or demons, powers, or anything in all creation -- nothing will defeat God's purpose for us!

And God will not be beaten by death! The resurrection of Christ confirms for us that his purpose in our lives is completed by death – it is NOT ended or derailed or frustrated by death.

Nothing "will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." (8:39)

Six good reasons why you should trust God to fulfill his purpose in your life:

- 1) He has the plan – it's been worked out from eternity past to eternity future
- 2) He has the authority – no one and no thing can thwart him
- 3) He has the commitment – he will finish what he has begun
- 4) He has the integrity – His Word is His bond
- 5) He has the power – the resurrection of Jesus proves that there is no failure he can't reverse
- 6) He has the heart – nothing can separate you from his love for you.



Paul had no question about entrusting himself to God's care. He wrote...

**"I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day." (2 Tim. 1:12 NIV)**

Will you trust Him to keep your life? Let's pray.

- Communion songs & the Lord's Table
- Benediction