

## DEUS PRO NOBIS

*...si Deus pro nobis quis contra nos? (Romans 8:31. Latin Vulgate)*

If you ever studied Latin you may be able to figure this out. The words are rather simple. But the thought conveyed is profound. "If God is for us, who can be against us?" This question is found in the glorious 8<sup>th</sup> chapter of Romans where Paul describes in rapturous detail the victorious life now available because of what God has done on our behalf through his Son, Jesus Christ. It all comes into focus in this rhetorical question. The Latin translation captures the raw power of the original Greek. Paul omitted any verbs. Literally, the verse says: "If God for us, who against us?"

Since the first century, Christians have been enamored with this verse in general and these three words in particular: *Deus pro nobis*. God (is) for us! Think about it:

***God is for us.*** It is wonderful when parents, friends and colleagues are for us. But imagine this: God Almighty himself is for us! The maker of heaven and earth is on our side. He who formed the mountains and carved out the oceans is in our corner. How do we know this? How can we be sure? The next verse explains: *Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else?* (v. 32. NLT).

***God is for us.*** The fact that the verb "is" is not in the original Greek indicates that what Paul is saying is true in all times and in all places. God for us yesterday, today, forever. That means whatever trial we happen to be facing today: God for us. Right here. Right now.

***God is for us.*** Because we have broken God's laws and often ignored his instructions, we may be tempted to think that God is *against* us. It may feel this way at times but the truth is far different. Just as a loving parent disciplines a disobedient child and a caring teacher pressures a lazy student, so God may seem to be working against us, but in reality he is causing all things to work together for good for those who love him (v. 28).

***God is for us.*** Yes, God loves the world and is concerned about humanity in general. But his compassion is not only a generic benevolence directed at everyone everywhere. He is for *us*! More specifically, he is for *me*! Only when the Gospel becomes personal is it the Gospel. *And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me* (Galatians 2:20).

The word "if" that prefaces Paul's statement is not intended to convey the idea of uncertainty. Rather it helps the reader to better grasp the sure results that come to those who put their trust in Christ. The word could also be translated by the English "since." *Since God is for us, who can be against us?*

Think about it. If God Almighty is on your side... what could possibly do you harm? One person plus God constitutes a majority! Dear friends, as we gather on this Lord's Day to worship his name and sing his praises: *Deus pro nobis*.