

## **Life Group Notes**

**Sunday 25 November 2018**

**Speaker:** Sean Green

**Title:** Way Better Than Red Bull

**Passage:** Romans 8:31-37

---

### **IMPORTANT NOTE:**

- **Who are you inviting to the Glen Scrivener/Christmas meetings on 9th Dec?**

**Please PRAY** together as a group; for the guests that you are inviting, opportunities to ask them and hearts to respond to the love of God in the meeting.

- **On Saturday (1st Dec)** a group is heading into Reading town centre to talk to people about Jesus.

Find out if anyone in your group has ever done anything like this before and ask them to tell you about it. Then, why not come and join the team this Saturday? – 3-5pm outside Superdrug. Lots of people needed to blow up balloons as well hand out Christmas leaflets and start conversations.

- **Please PRAY;** that seeds of conversation on Saturday find good soil, for courage for those who are part of the team, that the town of Reading would know peace, and the blessing of God in this Christmas season.

---

Life gets hard, and when it does we tend to reach out for something to give us wings, to pick us up and keep us going. Red Bull claim their energy drink is perfect for that job, to pick you up when feeling low, to help you keep going.

### **Read Romans 8v31-34**

**God is for us:** If Paul had simply asked: who is against us? The answers would be innumerable. But Paul does not simply ask 'who is against us'. The essence of his question is in the 'if' ... if God is for them who can be against them? If the greater gift of Jesus has already been given, how much more will the good Father give lesser gifts. Paul brings us into an imaginary law court. We are in the Dock and God the Father is the Judge. Mercifully Jesus is the counsel for our defence. But who will accuse us? Our conscience? The devil? Those we have sinned against? Maybe, but none of their allegations will stand as God the judge has already justified us. Jesus is our advocate, and no-one can bring any charge against us that has not already been discharged by Christ's death.

### **Read Romans 8v35-37**

**More than conquerors:** The believers in Rome would have experienced many obstacles and much opposition; could these detach them from Christ's love? No, says Paul. In all these we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. How? Because God is wise and powerful and can redeem adversity and use it to serve His purposes. Trials are opportunities to prove to ourselves that 'hardships are incapable of disrupting our relationship with the love of God in Christ' - Douglas Moo. Nothing in human the experience, in the spiritual realm, in all of creation, in all that opposes God people, can separate us from Christ's love. Why? Because God loves us simply because of his choice, not because of anything we've done or not done. He loves us because He love us.

Those who follow Jesus we are engaged in a very real, albeit often unseen, spiritual warfare that can be ferocious and exhausting. If we are not mindful, these trials, even the victories, can leave us feeling downcast, damaged and disillusioned by the whole experience. Romans 8 is a remedy that we are to read and re-read, to deeply ponder, as we learn to live out the truths of this chapter. Romans 8 is way better than Redbull in giving us wings.

### **Suggested questions:**

Whose voice is accuses you? (and is their voice in the fore or background?)

Where is God's love being expressed in the hardships you're facing?

Even in victory we can feel downcast. Discuss then pray