What does God want for me?

Romans 8:31 What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? 33 Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. 34 Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? 36 As it is written:

“For your sake we face death all day long;

 we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Someone recently asked me about a positive message they heard and were concerned that some reacted against it as being too soft and not being true to the word. We talked…

I am aware that there are those who reflect their own hard personality into what they preach and feel duty bound to condemn, demean and control by what they think is the true, “hard gospel.” I’ve lived a long time now and I have heard it all I suppose, and I have sifted through the styles of presenting the gospel and have come away with what I believe to be the message that best reflects the mind of Christ and the intentions of the Creator.

1. Jesus is not the condemner. Satan is!
2. God does not press His creation down, but lifts it up.
3. The message of the Gospel is not intended to bind His people to dogma or religious structures, but to free us from those legalities to walk in freedom in Him.
4. The message of the cross is that life, abundant and free, is available to those who will follow the Lord of all things.

Consider the alternative for a moment. Let’s look at the passage above and reverse the projection –

1. If God is for us, we do not have a chance of a good life.
2. how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us nothing but religious controls.
3. Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? Well, the trial is still up for grabs. Maybe your sins are too great to warrant any positive reward.
4. It is Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us – but God has the right to not listen, which He often does.
5. You get the picture… There are way too many sermons who demean us and put the blessings of God on some probationary platform, leading us to believe that Christianity is a grim task of endurance leading nowhere.

That is not the Gospel. Jesus came to bring good news into the challenges of life and into the lives of all who follow Him. OK, no, He is not just some big Santa Claus in the sky, he is better than that and bigger than that. He is the Creator God, who designed the planet before it was ever revealed, to serve us and give to us and to be subservient to the purposes of a great and loving God.

He does not condemn, but lifts us out of our own condemnation and into His freedom.

He does not follow us around inspecting our every move to see if He can catch us. He abides in us and with us to live His life through us. He is the power of the universe, yet the indwelling Spirit of he who died to give us all thing.

It is in this way that Paul uttered the wonderful and powerful words, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” We serve the King of Kings, who has seated us with Him in heavenly places. Our destiny is not to lose the planet but to be the instruments of divine redemption.

The best is yet to come. Believe it. Walk in it. Speak it. It is yours already as the reward of the Lamb who bought it for us.

God has more for you than you can ever imagine.