HEAVEN IS ON MY SIDE -

TEXT: Romans 8:31-39

- Allow me to set the scene for what we will study today. We are not many months removed from the crucifixion, burial, and resurrection of Jesus.
- The day of Pentecost has already occurred and the early church is growing daily.
- The Holy Spirit is empowering these new believers with a strength and courage unlike anything the world has ever witnessed.
- They now no longer fear death; for death has been conquered by Christ. The dynamic power of which Christ spoke is continually being demonstrated in the lives of those who stand to share the truth of the resurrection. The man about whom we have read this morning is one of them.

With boldness and authority Stephen preaches to the religious elite of the day. He shows them that Jesus is the promised Messiah.

With cruel malice and with a thirst for blood, these religious, self-righteous men begin to stone Stephen. But as the stones begin to strike him, he looks toward Heaven. ***The Word of God*** tells us that he looked up ***"steadfastly."*** He fixed his eyes intently on Heaven.

This is most peculiar. Just why is Jesus ***"standing"*** and not sitting? There must be a reason. Why is Jesus standing? Could it be that He is doing this because the Son of God has an interest in what is going on here on earth in the lives of His disciples? Ladies and gentlemen, I want you to know this morning that Heaven has an interest in the child of God. This morning I want you to know that if you are a child of God, if you know that Christ is your Savior, then you can stand and say, **"Heaven Is On My Side."** This morning we are going to look at **How Do I Know That Heaven Is On My Side**.

I. HOW DO I KNOW THAT HEAVEN IS ON MY SIDE - BECAUSE OF MY INTERCESSOR.

Look with me at ***Romans 8:34***. ***Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.***

The ***book*** of ***Hebrews*** would remind us that ***he ever liveth to make intercession for us***. That is part of what He is doing in Heaven for us today.

- **He is our Advocate**.HE REPRESENTS
- **He is our Mediator**.HE RECONCILES
- **He is our Counselor**. HE REASONS

Notice my **Intercessor**:

F. B. Meyer wrote about two Germans who wanted to climb the Matterhorn. They hired three guides and began their ascent at the steepest and most slippery part. The men roped themselves together in this order: guide, traveler, guide, traveler, guide. They had gone only a little way up the side when the last man lost his footing. He was held up temporarily by the other four, because each had a toehold in the niches they had cut in the ice. But then the next man slipped, and he pulled down the two above him. The only one to stand firm was the first guide, who had driven a spike deep into the ice. Because he held his ground, all the men beneath him regained their footing.

A. HIS PERSON - He Is The Son of God.

Look at it in ***Romans 8:31-32. What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? - Romans 8:31-32***

Just as **Abraham spared not Isaac**, so **God spared not His Son**.

A. HIS PERSON - He Is The Son of God.

B. HIS POSITION. - He Is At The Right Hand of God

In looking at our **Intercessor** we see not only **His Person**, but we also see **His Position**. Look at it again in ***Romans 8:34***. ***Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.*** - Where is He? At the right of the Father. Heaven does not say, "He was here, and He will be right back after a while." No. He is ever near to the Father.

A. HIS PERSON - He Is The Son of God.

B. HIS POSITION. - He Is At The Right Hand of God.

C. HIS PASSION. TO WORK FOR US

HEB 4:14-16 4:14 Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. 15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

We see our **Intercessor's Person**, we see **His Position**, and we also see **His Passion**. Look at it in ***Romans 8:38-39***. What love He has for us, and nothing can separate us from that love!

I. HOW DO I KNOW THAT HEAVEN IS ON MY SIDE - BECAUSE OF MY INTERCESSOR.
II. HOW DO I KNOW THAT HEAVEN IS ON MY SIDE - BECAUSE OF MY INFIRMITIES.
Whether we want to admit it or not, we all have **Infirmities**. We all are **Deficient** in one area or another in our lives. We all have **Flaws**, and **Failures**,
But this morning we can **Know That Heaven Is On Our Side Because Of Our Weaknesses**. My **Infirmities** include my:
A. IGNORANCE.
If you are **Ignorant** that means that **you do not know some things**. Ladies and gentlemen, with all due respect, we are not as smart as we think we are.
WE ARE IGNORANT IN OUR ASKING. Look at it in ***Romans 8:26a. Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: - Romans 8:26a***
A father, walking past his 5 year old daughter's room one night, proudly noticed she was on her knees in prayer. Listening in, he heard this curious prayer –
"abcdefghijklmnopqrstuv wxyz"- repeated several times. When she was finished, he asked her what it meant: "God is really smart," she said, "when I don't know what to pray about, I

just say the alphabet and He figures it out for me."

When I do not know what to pray I am thankful that **Heaven Is On My Side** and that the Holy Spirit goes to God and tells Him what is in my heart that I am unable to express with my lips. Aren't you glad that even in our **Ignorance** that **Heaven Is On Our Side**.

A. IGNORANCE.

B. INABILITIES.

But **My Infirmities** also include **Inabilities**. Look with me quickly in ***Ephesians 3:20***. ***The Word of God* tells us that God . . . *is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, - Ephesians 3:20***.

God is able to do not only what we ***"ask"*** but also what we ***"think."*** He is able to do above all that we ask or think, ***exceeding*** our highest aspirations and largest requests. Better still, He is able to do ***abundantly*** above all that we ask or think. Oh, that the Holy Spirit would enable us to understand that and strengthen our faith to obtain a better grip upon it.

Human language is utterly incapable of expressing the infinite sufficiency and unlimited bounty of the One to whom prayer is addressed.

Know this today, as long as we are coming to God with our needs and burdens, there is hope.

I. HOW DO I KNOW THAT HEAVEN IS ON MY SIDE - BECAUSE OF MY INTERCESSOR.

II. HOW DO I KNOW THAT HEAVEN IS ON MY SIDE - BECAUSE OF MY INFIRMITIES.

III. HOW DO I KNOW THAT HEAVEN IS ON MY SIDE - BECAUSE OF MY INHERITANCE.

I Peter 1:3-4. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, -

If I have an **Inheritance reserved** for me in glory, then **Heaven Must**, of necessity, **Be On My Side**. Jesus Christ wrote us into His will, and He wrote the will with His own blood. He died so that the will would be in force;
He arose from the and returned to heaven that He might enforce the will Himself and distribute the **Inheritance**.

Romans 8:31-32What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? -

A. THE INHERITANCE HAS NO LIMIT - "all things"
B. THE INHERITANCE HAS NO LABOR - "freely"

What an encouragement it must have been that day when Stephen saw Jesus standing watching, waiting, cheering Him on.

What a comfort it must have been for Him to know that Christ was there with him, helping him finish his race.

And what a joy it is to know that Jesus is doing the same for us today.

Ladies and gentlemen, **Heaven Is On Our Side**.

Heaven is where I am Heard, where I am Helped, and where I am Headed. **Heaven Is On My Side**.

Unlike Carl Lewis and Jessie Owens, **Derek Redmond** is not a name that conjures up memories of Olympic gold medals. Redmond arrived at the 1992 Olympic Summer Games in Barcelona determined to win a medal in the 400.

Derek's father Jim had accompanied him to Barcelona, just as he did for all his competitions. They were as close as a father and son could be. When Derek ran, it was as if his father were running right next to him.

The race begins and Redmond breaks from the pack and quickly seizes the lead. Down the backstretch, only 175 meters away from finishing, Redmond suddenly, hears a pop in his right hamstring. He pulls up lame, as if he had been shot. His leg quivering, Redmond begins hopping on one leg, then slows down and falls to the track. Jim Redmond, seeing his son in trouble, begins to race down from the top row of the stands, sidestepping people, bumping into others. He has no credentials to be on the track, but all he thinks about is getting to his son, to help him up.

As Jim hurriedly makes his way to the field, Derek lifts himself to his feet, ever so slowly, and starts hobbling down the track. Slowly, the crowd of 65,000+, in total disbelief, rises and begins to roar.

The roar gets louder and louder. One painful step at a time, Redmond limps onward, and the crowd, many in tears, cheer him on. He is in sight of the finish line, but the pain is becoming unbearable. His painful pace slows once again. But it is then that Derek's dad leaps over the railing, avoids a security guard, and runs out to his son. "**That's my son out there,**" he yells back to security, "**and I'm going to help him.**"

Finally, with Derek refusing to surrender and painfully limping along the track, Jim reaches his son **INSPITE OF THE LAW** and wraps his arm around his waist. **"I'm here, son,"** Jim says softly, hugging his boy. **"We'll finish together."** Derek puts his arms around his father's shoulders and sobs. Together, arm in arm, father and son, with 65,000 people cheering, clapping and crying, finish the race, just as they vowed they would.