

“Undeniable Victory”

March 15, 2020

Scripture Text: Romans 8:35-39 NKJV **35** *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?* **36** *As it is written: For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.”* **37** *Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.* **38** *For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, **39** nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

VERSE 35 *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?*

Paul is writing to the believers from his Resume of experience in following the Lord Jesus as he shares a living hope to all that would receive Christ. He reminds us of how God’s love enables us to be more than conquerors through every trial that we face for His sake. Jesus said, *“These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”* {**John 16:33 NKJV**}

As we have observed in our series and previous messages in Romans chapter 8, God’s love for us was predetermined before the foundation of the world that we would be saved. We have come to the realization that His love for us is not diminished or terminated by our failures, shortcomings, or sins, because it goes back to God’s choice of us. **Verse 30** *Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.* **Ephesians 2:8 NLT** “God saved you by His grace when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God.”

VERSE 36 *As it is written: For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.”*

Paul says as it is written: that we are killed and we are looked upon as sheep for the slaughter. It is written in **Psalms 44:22** “**Yet for Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.**” King David is registering his concern that “**Israel had not been unfaithful to God**, and yet afflictions had come upon her. The problem was greatly aggravated by the fact that their faithfulness to God actually appeared to be “**the reason why**” they suffered. **It just doesn’t seem fair! In our human reasoning**, we think that if we do God’s will that we should not have to suffer for being obedient. Nevertheless, the bible tells us, “**For the LORD disciplines those He loves, and He punishes each one He accepts as his child.**” {**Hebrews 12:6 NLT**}.

The Lord knows the **WHY** of every question that you and I may have concerning what is fair. I believe that every **WHY** will be answered when you are finally in the presence of God.

VERSE 37 *Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.*

God’s great love for us is not threatened or undermined by tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or pandemics. While God has so far spared most of us in America from physical persecution for our faith, that is not the case for thousands of our brothers and sisters in other countries. Some are being tortured and killed for their faith. We will have our day when our faith will be tested to whether we are fully committed to the gospel or to a false security.

Paul promised (**2 Tim. 3:12**), “*Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.*” Just because we are Christians, we are never exempt from suffering. **By faith God delivers some, but by the same faith**, others are impoverished or tortured or murdered because they would rather lose their life than deny their faith in God. Some may say, “**But I was serving the Lord! Why didn’t He**

protect me?” In God’s sovereign purpose, He often allows His faithful servants to be persecuted unto death. After all, we have been told in **Romans 8:32** “He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? ”

We are more than conquerors because of our faith in the Work of Christ. Categorically, **1.** His sacrificial death to cover mankind’s sins offering all eternal life. **2.** His victory over the curse of death and the grave, thereby subduing man’s greatest fear. **3.** His resurrection from the grave giving the assurance of life beyond the grave. **1 Corinthians 15:55-57 NKJV** “O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?” **56** The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. **57** But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. **4.** By His promise to send us a comforter that empowers and leads us into all truth. **5.** His love for us to be with Him. Lastly, His commitment to return to receive us.

VERSE 38 *For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come,*

Paul says, he is convinced (in the **Natural Realm**) that death (*the dreaded fear of man*) or life (*trials & tribulations*) would be able to separate us from God’s love. He had escaped many near death incidents from being beaten, ship wrecked and stoned to the brink of death (**2 Corinthians 11: 24-31**). As believers *death* ushers you into His presence (**Phil. 1:23; 2 Cor. 5:8**). In the death of our body, we will receive a resurrected body when Christ returns (**Rom. 8:23**). There is victory over death; the moment we die our spirits go to be with the Lord (**1 Cor. 15:50-54**).

Paul further mentions neither angels, nor principalities nor powers nor things present or future would separate us from God’s love. He is saying that (in the **Spiritual Realm**) there

are no spiritual powers, good or bad, that could possibly separate us from God's love. No bad circumstance now or in the future can separate us from God's great love.

VERSE 39 *nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Nothing in heaven or in hell can separate us from God's love. Paul is covering every possible area of doubt that can arise in those dark times when we go thru those fiery trials of faith.

James 1:2-4 NKJV *2 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. 4 But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.*

How can you know that He loves you when you go through horrible suffering or perhaps even face martyrdom at some point? We must remember that we have been called by God into relationship with Him through His son's death, burial and resurrection. This great event sprung from an immeasurable love that God has for you and me. With the assurance that we are never alone, we not only can persevere through trials, but *overwhelmingly conquer in them.* **God's love for us is everywhere God is.**

Hebrews 13:5 NKJV *"Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."* Yes. You can be assured that **God Will Never...Never... Never Leave You Or Forsake You** because He cannot lie and He keeps His promises.

APPLICATIONS:

We should never claim to be victims with God on our side and victory residing within us.

Your view of God is all important, when trials and tests come to strengthen your faith.