

WHO SHALL SEPARATE US FROM THE LOVE OF CHRIST

ROMANS 8:31-39

Text: Romans 8:35

Romans 8:35

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

Introduction:

There is one thing that sets Christianity apart from the rest of the belief systems in the world this evening.

That thing is a distinctive plan of salvation that guarantees absolute, eternal security to everyone who is saved thereby.

As we read in our passage – Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?

- His Love is Enduring (vs. 35-36)

Regardless of what we face as we go through life, nothing we face is able to come between us and the love of God.

- His Love is Enabling (vs. 37)

He lives within us and enables us to stand.

- His Love is Everlasting (vs. 38-39)

He tells us here that there is nothing from the beginning or our life with God until the end of our life here that will ever be able to separate the believer from the salvation he enjoys in Christ Jesus. The end result of all this is the blessed assurance that in Jesus we are forever protected and secure come what may in life or death!

Notice:

1. THE SEVEREST OF CIRCUMSTANCES CANNOT SEPARATE US FROM THE LORD OF CHRIST (VS. 35-37)

Romans 8:35-37

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 thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. ³⁷ Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

At times people believe that God doesn't love them.

But there is not circumstance, no situation, no event that can cause Christ to turn away from us.

Note the list given:

- A. Tribulation – to undergo struggle, trials, temptation, suffering or affliction
- B. Distress – to suffer anguish, trouble, strain, agony, not knowing which way to turn or what to do
- C. Persecution – to be abused, mocked, ridiculed, shamed, mistreated, ignored, neglected, harassed, attacked, or injured
- D. Famine – to have no food, to be starving
- E. Nakedness – to be stripped of all cloths and earthly comforts
- F. Peril – to be exposed to the most sever risk, to be confronted with the most extreme danger
- G. Sword – to be killed, to suffer martyrdom

Imagine an individual experiencing all this.

What would their thoughts be? Would they feel that they had been forsaken by God? In the midst of these troubles one may feel that God didn't love them.

We must remember that we will suffer while in this world.

Again note what the text says:

Romans 8:36

³⁶ As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

The world counts believers as sheep for the slaughter, rejecting and persecuting them.

Psalms 44:22

²² Yea, for thy sake are we killed all the day long; we are counted as sheep for the slaughter.

We will be persecuted as long as we live for Christ. Their lives of godliness convict the world, and the world rejects godliness.

But whatever the circumstance Christ will carry us through.

- Christ meets all the materials needs of life

Matthew 6:31

³¹ Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?

Matthew 6:33

³³ But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

- Christ gives us rest

Matthew 11:28

²⁸ Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

- Christ gives us peace

John 14:27

²⁷ Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

John 16:33

³³ These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

- Christ provides as escape from temptation

1 Corinthians 10:13

¹³ There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God *is* faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear *it*.

- Christ comfort us through trials

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

³ Blessed *be* God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the

Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; ⁴ Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.

- Christ delivers us through persecution

Hebrews 12:3

³ For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

1 Peter 4:12-13

¹² Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: ¹³ But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

- Christ cares for us no matter the situation

1 Peter 5:7

⁷ Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

- Christ delivers us from fear

Isaiah 41:10

¹⁰ Fear thou not; for I *am* with thee: be not dismayed; for I *am* thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

2. THE SEVEREST OF FORCES CANNOT SEPARATE US FROM THE LOVE OF CHRIST (VS. 38-39)

Romans 8:38-39

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 creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Not death

Not life

Not angels, principalities, or powers

Not anything present or anything to come

Not height or depth

Not any other thing or creature that's not mentioned

Close:

When everything is added up and all these truths are digested, it becomes clear that in Jesus we have absolute, eternal security. The believer need never fear anything coming between himself and God's salvation. If you are saved, you are saved forever!

We too may say:

Hebrews 13:6

⁶So that we may boldly say, The Lord *is* my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.