

## **THIS WEEK'S STUDY: 10/3-4/2022 *Romans Chapter 8:26-39!***

**PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE STUDY!**

**MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)**

**THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN CLASSROOM HS107, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!**

**MEETING ID# - 87858644763 Passcode: 087484**

Join Zoom Meeting -

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87858644763?pwd=b25tUzhkaTE0UzIrSnpkVmZEWGJVQT09>

**Meeting ID: 878 5864 4763 - Passcode: 087484**

One tap mobile

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**TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada).**

**THE TUESDAY MORNING STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN THE FAMILY ROOM, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!**

**MEETING ID# - 85309150746 - Passcode: 715340**

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### **OPENING PRAYER**

**Theme of the Book of Romans: “Righteousness by Faith” – 1:16-17**

***Romans Chapter 8 – No Condemnation....No Separation!* Theme: The great theme of Chapter Eight is the security of the Christian, the absolute certainty of the “final perseverance” of the saints and of the ultimate, complete and entire salvation of everyone who believes in the Lord Jesus Christ!**

**This week we come to the grand climax of this great chapter!**

***TEXT:***

*(Rom 8:26-39) Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. [27] Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God. [28] And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. [29] For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. [30] Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. [31] What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? [32] He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? [33] Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. [34] Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. [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.*

***Rom 8:26 Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.***

- ***Likewise, the Spirit also.*** This is a continuation of a previous thought. Back in verse fourteen, we find that Paul is telling them that as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. And the Spirit bears witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God. He is referring back to this fact that God's Spirit is bearing witness with our spirit. This is the ministry in the work of the Holy Spirit, bearing witness with our spirit that we are the Sons of God. Likewise, also, the Spirit helps in our weaknesses.
- ***He makes reference here to this groaning, we who have the Spirit, that groaning within ourselves*** as we wait for this, being placed as an adult son. In other words, the redemption of our body and the completion of this redemption when we are changed, and our bodies are fashioned like to His own glorious image! There is this groaning of all creation. There is the Spirit working within us as we ourselves having the Spirit, are groaning waiting as we wait for this redemption of our bodies, our glorification! So likewise, now also the Spirit. He is speaking about the continued work of the Holy Spirit within us, within the life of the believer. Now he speaks about the help the Holy Spirit gives to us in our weaknesses.
- ***What is the weakness that He is referring to?*** *For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought!* How difficult it is, many times, to know how to pray for a certain situation. What is the will of God? I don't want to be praying something that is contrary to the will of God.
- ***There may be a friend, who is in big trouble.*** He's gotten away from the Lord and that relationship that he once had. Now, he's in a real mess. He's facing jail time. Does God want to just really use this to draw him back fully to a commitment to Jesus Christ? Is this God's wake up call to him? Shall I pray, oh God, you know, give him favor in the courts? Help him Lord and keep him out of prison. Or does God

want him to be in prison so that he'll have to start listening to the voice of God? How to pray? It's often a real problem for us to know just how to pray as we ought. Now this is a weakness. We want to pray according to God's will. Here is where the Spirit comes along and assists us. Giving us assistance in our prayer life when we are faced with this enigma of not knowing how to pray as we ought.

- ***Likewise, the Spirit also helps!*** Think of a man carrying a log or a plank which is so heavy that it proves too much for him. Another man comes along and takes hold of the other end of the plank. So, they carry it together. The second man does not do all the work, he helps. The Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness, coming to our aid, giving us a helping hand, coming up over against us, taking hold together with us. So together, the problem is solved!
- ***In our weaknesses.*** Lack of strength. Our weaknesses are undoubtedly the result and the consequence of the original Fall of man, because there were no weaknesses in man as God made him. God made him perfect. But one of the tragedies of the Fall is that everyone born into the world after the Fall of man is subject to weaknesses.
- ***But the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.*** Now He helps our infirmities or our weaknesses, in that He will help us in our prayer life as we're faced with situations where we don't know how to pray. The Spirit will *make intercession for us with groanings*, our wordless groanings, not the groaning by the Holy Spirit, *which cannot be uttered*. I've been groaning a lot lately as I see a seemingly unending number of ungodly bills and proposed law changes coming out of Washington, D.C. and Sacramento. I groan in my spirit when I see this kind of governmental influence in the areas of abortion and perverted sex, the corrupting of the minds of the American people, especially the children! I find myself groaning in the Spirit. I don't know how to pray as I should, but I groan in my spirit over the conditions of our land and our nation. But that groaning is the help of the Holy Spirit in making intercession according to the will of God.

***Rom 8:27 Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.***

- ***It's a wonderful thing to know that you are praying according to the will of God.*** For when you know you are praying according to the will of God, then we have this confidence, ***(1Jn 5:14-15) Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. [15] And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.*** It is so good to know that I am praying according to God's will. I can't always know that when I just pray from my intellect.
- ***But when the Spirit guides my prayer, I can know that my prayer is according to the will of God!*** This is another great assist that we have of the Holy Spirit. Helping us in our prayer life. Making intercession for us, causing and allowing these wordless groanings. It's just a deep groaning within our spirit and that is God's help. He who searches the heart. God said that He does search the heart. David said, You have searched me and known me. He prayed, ***(Psa 139:23) Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties.*** It is God who sends the Holy Spirit to us to do this work within us and to produce the wordless groaning, which He interprets and understands, all because He makes intercession for the saints!
- ***May God grant us understanding in this vital and important matter of prayer!*** We thank Him that we always have the ultimate consolation that when we know not what to pray for as we should, the Holy Spirit Himself makes intercession for us, giving us groanings which cannot be uttered. He that searches the hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit is, for He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God!

***Rom 8:28 And we know (present tense) that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.***

- ***We see here one of the most remarkable statements that this Apostle ever made!*** It is also one of the most comforting statements in the whole range of Scripture. We are surely entitled to say that in respect

of the statement of exalted doctrine there is really nothing higher than this. Here is ultimate doctrine. There is not a greater privilege on earth than to be allowed to examine a statement such as this, realizing as we do so that we are not students of philosophy or art or literature, but men and women considering doctrine concerning ourselves. These things, even this exalted doctrine, are written for our consideration, as well as for our edification.

- **When facing unknown things, always fall back on what you do know!** There are certain things that we know and need to know. Certain basic foundational truths. I need to know this. Because in life we are going to be faced with many things that we don't know. Many circumstances that seem to be very adverse. I don't know why God allowed this. I don't know what God is doing or seeking to do through this. If God really loves me, why would He allow this to happen to me? And there are a lot of things that we don't know and won't know. It is important to cling and hold onto things that we do know.
- **This is one of those basic, important, foundational, truths that we need to know**, so that when we face things that we don't know, we have something to stand on. We fall back on it. This is one of those Scriptures, which I have fallen back on so many times! I know that all things are working together for good to those who love God and are the called according to His purpose. I know that. Now, I can't always tell you what good is going to come out of a situation that seems to be so tragic. The problem is that as God is working in our lives, He is always working according to an eternal purpose and plan that He has for us.
- **Now the Lord doesn't always reveal to us the purpose of the trials, or the sufferings** that we go through. We cannot see what lies before, which results in our clinging to Him more and more. And that's the whole purpose. God wants us to just trust in Him! To cling to Him, during those times when I don't understand the purpose of God. I fall back on what I do understand. I know that all things are working together for good because I love God. And somehow God, You are going to bring good out of this. You are going to accomplish a good purpose in my life through these things, but I just cling by faith to what I know. It's working and will work together for good.
- **Now when you come up against those things that you don't know. Then just fall back on what you do know.** Rest in that! God is working. He is going to work out His plan. It's going to be good. When He is finished the results are going to be good. **Never give up what you know for what you don't know!** That's a mistake that many people make. Coming up against these things they don't understand, they don't know. They are prone sometimes to give up what they don't know. They begin to make foolish charges against God. I don't think God loves me or cares for me anymore. I wonder if there is a God.
- **Notice this isn't a Scripture for everybody!** It's not for the sinner. It's not for the man outside of Christ. He can't have that assurance. He can't have that confidence, knowing that God is going to work good out of this situation.
- **Do you know that as a Christian all things are working together for good for you?** Do you know that God is over ruling everything in the whole cosmos for your good? If you do know it, you cannot be depressed. You cannot know it and be depressed at the same time, for such knowledge and depression are mutually exclusive. There is a very practical aspect to this glorious teaching! We do need to use discernment in too quickly quoting this truth to other believers, who are suffering greatly! Lord, give me compassion and discernment!

***Rom 8:29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.***

- **Here is definition of working all things together for good**, is that He will conform us into the image of Christ! What could be more wonderful, more valuable than that, in the whole world or the whole universe than that? Absolutely nothing! Things can be difficult, and things can be rough. But on the other of it, we are more like Christ than we would ever be otherwise!
- **God is omniscient. That is one of His attributes.** It means that God cannot learn anything new. Anything that is to be known and can be known, God knows! The end from the beginning. In *(Isa*

*46:10) Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things that are not yet done, Saying, 'My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure. He then prophesied through Isaiah, many things that would happen to the nation of Israel, which in time did happen because He said, I am God. I can do this because I know everything.*

- **What is it like do you suppose to know everything?** Does one have to think if you know everything, and here is where the breakdown is? It is a mystery to me. I can't imagine what it would be like to know everything. I can't even comprehend what it would be like to know everything. But God does!
- **Now will God ever know who is going to be saved?** When is He going to find out? You see if God is ever going to know who is going to be saved, He's always known who was going to be saved! ! Chosen in Him, Paul said, *(Eph 1:4) just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, before the foundations of the earth!* But now, let's not jump to wrong conclusions, unscriptural conclusions.
- **The fact that God has chosen me from the foundations of the earth, does not negate my necessity to receive Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior!** To surrender my life to Him! But you say, how can you reconcile that? I can't! I tried to. But we are only being asked to believe what I don't understand, not to understand and reconcile those areas between finite man and the infinite God, who only asked you to believe it. You see if you only believe what you understand, then where is faith?
- **Faith is believing what I don't understand.** Thus, I believe that God is sovereign. That He has chosen me from the foundation of the earth. That He has predestined that I should be His child and dwell with Him forever. I believe that! But, I also believe that, that day the Spirit of God called my heart to surrender my life to Jesus Christ, that it was important that I yield my heart to the obedience to the Holy Spirit's ministry. And to receive Jesus as my Lord and Savior! That God requires men to exercise that capacity of choice that He has given to us. To choose whom we are going to serve. So, I can't reconcile it. But I surely do believe it!
- **For whom He foreknew, He also predestined.** So, it is attached to His foreknowledge. The purpose of God through these things is to conform us into the image of Jesus Christ. There are a lot of rough edges in our lives. So, God allows trials. He allowed these things to rub against us. But it's all a part of God's plan that He conforms us into the image of Jesus Christ! That is God's intent and purpose. That's His predetermined purposes that I should be conformed into the image of Jesus Christ! Again, here is where the help of the Holy Spirit comes to us.
- **So, this work of God's Spirit, molding me, shaping me, allowing things to happen** that I don't understand, but causing me to grasp on and to hold on to Him, ever tighter. I don't know where I am going, but Lord, I'm just trusting in You. I'm holding onto You. And through these things, God is working in me. In all of these things for His good purpose of bringing me into the conformity of the image of His Son, Jesus Christ!

***Rom 8:30 Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.*** (Notice all of the these are in the past tense! He already sees me there!)

- **Now, again, because God has foreknowledge, He knows all things.** Because God is eternal. The attributes of God, characteristics that we cannot comprehend with our finite mind, but because He knows all things, He knows what is going to be. He can speak of that which is going to be as though it already was! He can speak of the future in the past tense. Or in the present tense because He knows that is what's going to be. He can speak of things as existing though they do not yet exist. Because he knows that they are going to exist. But God is already there. Thus, He can speak of them as being. Now, being glorified, these He also glorified. I'm not yet glorified. You see I'm in this time zone.
- **God is outside of the time zone. He speaks of the future as though it already was.** Thus, He speaks of me as being glorified! With faith, I look forward to that day when I have my glorified body and you know, I'm glorified together with Jesus. But He speaks of it as a past fact! As it already is, because He knows it's going to be! That is sort of comforting, when God speaks of me, being glorified, that's sort of

comforting because I know that He which has begun a good work in me is going to continue to perform it until He has completed it! God hasn't started and brought me this far to dump me! He is going to carry me all the way! He called me unto Himself and then He justified me. He said, He has glorified me!

- **I look forward to that finished product that God has declared, concerning me.** So as Paul brings to us these wonderful truths, God's Spirit bearing witness with my spirit that I am a child of God! Groaning as I wait for this redemption of my body, the glorified state. In the meantime, the Spirit dwelling in me, helping my weaknesses. He is helping me in my prayer life. Knowing that all things that are taking place and happening in my life are happening for good because I love God and He has called me according to His purpose. By His foreknowledge He predestined that I should be conformed into the image of His Son! He is working out that process now by His Holy Spirit in my life. He called me! Justified me! Glorified me!

### *God's Everlasting Love*

**Rom 8:31** *What then shall we say to these things? If (since) God is for us, who can be against us?*

- **Wow! You know, what can you say! Glory!** What can you say to these things? It's marvelous! It's wonderful!
- **If God is for us, who can be against us?** God is working out His purposes, His plans in your life. God is for you! *If God be for us, who can be against us?* In the Old Testament, we have the story of King Asa, as he was going out to face that huge army of Ethiopians and Nubians who had invaded the land, he said, Lord, it's nothing for You to help with, many or those who have no power. Help us oh, Lord! In Your name we're going to go out against this enemy. Don't let man prevail against You! As he went out and as God fought with him and for him, as he was coming back with the spoils of war, victory over this huge army, the prophet, Azariah, came out and said the Lord is with you while you will be with Him. God is for you, when you are for Him. If you seek Him, you will find Him. But if you forsake Him, He'll forsake you!
- **When Jonathan the son of Saul had come to that critical point in the history** of the nation of Israel, when the Philistines were overrunning the land. It looked like it was all over! They had multitudes of chariots. Saul and Jonathan were the only ones who had iron, weapons, spears, swords. The rest of them had sticks. The Philistines had already come into the iron age. They had iron spears, swords, chariots. They were such a formidable force. It was a war to exterminate Israel. The men of Saul's army seeing the Philistines and this great host of Philistines, who had moved through and conquered the land all the way to the middle of the country. The men of Saul's army deserted. They fled to the other side of the Jordan River. There were just a brave few were left.
- **Jonathan said (1Sa 14:6)** *Then Jonathan said to the young man who bore his armor, "Come, let us go over to the garrison of these uncircumcised; it may be that the LORD will work for us. For nothing restrains the LORD from saving by many or by few."* If God wants to deliver the Philistines to Israel, He doesn't need a whole army. They've left. But He doesn't need them. If God's going to work, all He needs is one man. Let's go over to the camp of the Philistines and see if God wants to wipe them out today. Oh, I love that! You talk about a venture in faith. You see if God is for you, who can be against you. The host of the Philistines? That's nothing for God! The host of the Ethiopians and Nubians? That's nothing for God. Millions strong, three hundred chariots, nothing for God! If God is for us, who can be against us? It's wonderful to know that God is for us! David said, *(Psa 118:6) The LORD is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?* I love that! *If God is for me who can be against me?*

**Rom 8:32** *He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?*

- **Then the declaration. How do I know that God is for me? God is for me! He demonstrated it!** He gave His only begotten Son for me! He delivered Him up for us all! *(1Jn 4:10) In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. (Rom 5:8) But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Joh*

*3:16) For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. (Rom 8:32) He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? Those are good things to remember when you pray. When you bring your requests to God. It's a good thing to remember that God loves you so much that He gave His Son for you. Now whatever you might need. Your needs are much less than what God has already demonstrated His willingness to give! He gave His Son for us all. How much more then shall He freely give us all things?*

- **How do I know that God is for me? We look to the cross! (Rom 5:8) But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.** If He has already given us His best, and He has already given us His best, then is He going to withhold anything else that is good and best for us? If He has already provided us a salvation and a Savior, He is going to provide us with everything else that we need for sanctification and for Christ likeness.

### ***Can Anyone or Anything Come Against or Condemn Us?***

***Rom 8:33 Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.***

- **Paul is saying, God isn't laying charges against His people!** David said, oh the blessedness of the man to whom God does not impute iniquity. The book of charges. Now we do know that in heaven, one day, men are going to stand before the judgment seat of God, to be judged according to the things that are in the books, written in the books. Records are being kept! God will bring out the books. They will be judged according to the things that are in the books. Whoever's name is not found written in the Book of Life will be cast into the lake that is burning with fire. This is the second death. But the book of charges that is being kept on me was destroyed. There is no book of wrong doing. God is not imputing iniquity. That blessed man in Christ Jesus. That blessed man walking in the Spirit.
- **There is therefore now no condemnation to those that are in Christ Jesus.** Oh, blessed is the man. That word blessed literally means how happy is the man to whom God does not impute iniquity. And I can bear witness. Yes! That's true! I'm so happy that God has forgiven my transgressions, covered my sins. That he is not imputing iniquity against me. *Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is not God! It is God who justifies!*
- **We do know however that Satan is laying charges against God's elect.** In Revelation chapter 12, when Satan is cast out of heaven. The voice from heaven declares, woe to the inhabitants of the earth for Satan has been cast out. He who accuses the brethren before God day and night continually. He is the accuser! He was laying charges against Job. Job serves you for profit. Job will do anything to hang onto his life. Making accusation. But God has justified, declaring us innocent!
- **The accuser of the brethren!** One of the devices the Devil will try in our life is to get us to defend ourselves against his accusations. He will remind us of our sins, bringing condemnation. If the devil can peg us as a kind of person that will run around and try to put out every fire that he lights about us, in our own strength, then that is all he will ever do, is to light fires and bring condemnation into our life! We don't need to defend ourselves before God. That is the position that Jesus, resurrected to the right hand of God, takes right now for you and for me! He is there as our Advocate, our defense attorney!

***Rom 8:34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.***

- **Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died,** or, shall Christ Jesus who died? It is unthinkable that the Lord Jesus Christ should be the cause of our condemnation because it is He who died for us, which means that in dying our Lord received the condemnation that was due to our sins. That is why He died, Therefore, Paul say, when you look at His death that is the argument you should deduce. He cannot be the cause of our condemnation because His very death proves that He has taken our condemnation upon Himself. It is impossible that the One who has taken our condemnation upon Himself, be our condemnation!

- **Furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.** Where is Jesus Christ now? Paul said the gospel that I preached unto you, how that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures. He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures. The resurrection of Jesus Christ. But where is He now?
- **(Heb 1:3-4)** “Who being the brightness of His glory (speaking of Christ, the brightness of God's glory), the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the work of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, **sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high**, having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.” **(Heb 12:2)** “Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has **sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.**”
- **Who also makes intercession for us.** He is there, at the right hand of God! Interceding on our behalf. **(Heb 7:25)** “Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.”
- **Who is he who condemns? Not Jesus.** Jesus said God didn't send Me into the world to condemn the world. He sent Me into the world to save the world, which is the opposite of condemning. Jesus is in the business of saving. If you feel under condemnation, know that it isn't coming from the Lord. The Holy Spirit does convict us when we do wrong things. But there is a vast difference between the Holy Spirit and that condemnation that Satan seeks to put us under. When Satan begins to condemn us because of our failures and our flaws, our failings, the net effect of Satan's condemnation is to drive me away from Jesus Christ, making me feel that I am undeserving.
- **When the Holy Spirit is convicting you.** And it can be over the very same issue, Satan can be condemning you. But then the Holy Spirit comes along to convict you of this sin. But the effect of the Holy Spirit is that I can't wait to get to Jesus! I can't wait to get on my knees and get this thing cleared up. Let's get it over with. Let's get is washed. Let's get rid of it! And He draws me to the Lord in order to free me from the guilt of my sin. So who is he who condemns? It isn't Jesus! He died for me! He rather has risen again. He is at the right hand of the Father making intercession for us.

**Rom 8:35** *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?*

**Rom 8:36** *As it is written: "FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE KILLED ALL DAY LONG; WE ARE ACCOUNTED AS SHEEP FOR THE SLAUGHTER."*

- **We come to the last challenge in which he considers the possibility that we might fail!** All these other challenges have been in terms of God's attitude toward us. But now he takes up an argument from our side. What if we should fail? What if we, as the result of trials and troubles and tribulations, should somehow or other fail and thereby be separated from the love of Christ? He gives a list of the possible things that may come to try us: *Tribulation, distress, persecution, famine nakedness, peril, sword.* To make it complete, he gives us a quotation from Psalm 44:22, **(Rom 8:36)** *As it is written: "FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE KILLED ALL DAY LONG; WE ARE ACCOUNTED AS SHEEP FOR THE SLAUGHTER."* He means that these trials, troubles and tribulations will come and do come, particularly because we are Christians.
- **But not only so, for as Paul has reminded us in verse 34, Christ is now in heaven interceding** for us. He says that it is Christ's love to us, and the power of Christ, that holds us, guaranteeing our continuance. Nothing can separate us from that love because it is His love for us, and because it is an all-powerful love!
- **We see a great example of that in (Eph 5:25-27)** *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, [26] that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, [27] that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.*
- **Christ died for the Church**, not simply that we should be forgiven, but that she should ultimately arrive at this absolute perfection, *without spot or wrinkle, or any such thing!* He has set His heart on her for that

end. He will not allow anything whatsoever to rob Him of that result! Nothing will be permitted to stand between Him and His purpose for the Church!

- **Where Satan has been effective in destroying the church is by joining it and bringing in compromise.** That has been his most effective weapon against the church. The compromise that the church is willing to make in order to gain the favor of the world! *Persecution*. Jesus said, if they persecuted Me, they are going to persecute you! Count it all joy, James said, when you fall into various trials. Can it separate me from the love of Christ? How about *nakedness*? How about *peril*? How about *sword*? *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?* The idea to any or all of this list **is NO, none of those things!**

**Rom 8:37** *Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved* (passive, past tense) **us**.

- ***We are more than conquerors***, which is a very strong expression! The believer is not a man who manages somehow to just gain an entrance into heaven. He is more than a conqueror. He not merely stands up to these trials, he demolishes them! He is enabled to overcome them completely. He not merely conquers them, he is more than a conqueror. And that includes death, everything that can possibly come against us is included!
- **How is the Christian made more than a conqueror?** It is the love of Christ for us that does it. Nothing can separate us from the love because it is His love for us, and because it is an all-powerful love.
- **What is it to be more than a conqueror?** We know what it is to be a *conqueror*. You go in. ***More than conquerors through Him who loved us***. You fight the battle. You win! You are a *conqueror*. What is it to be more than a *conqueror*? That's to go into the battle victorious. As we go into the battle, against the forces of darkness, against the powers of evil, we go in as victors! We go in the victory of Jesus Christ! So I go in as a conqueror. I have victory in the midst of the battle. I am rejoicing in the midst of the battle. For I know the outcome! *If God is for me, who can be against me?* I know the outcome and thus I'm *more than a conqueror* through Him who loves me.

**Rom 8:38** *For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come,*

- ***I am persuaded!*** He is not saying all this simply because he happens to have a particular feeling in him at the moment. Neither is he just hoping – hoping against hope. What he says is, **I am certain!** Note also, that the tense is in the passive, *For I am persuaded*, which means I have come, through a process of persuasion, to a settled conclusion! It is an absolute certainty, beyond any doubt whatsoever!
- ***Neither these things.... shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord***. Inseparable! He will not let you go. He'll hold on to you! That inseparable love of Christ! Nothing can separate me! I'm His child. He's chosen me! He's called me! He's justified me! He's actually glorified me! I'm waiting to see that result, but it's done in His mind; thus, it is an accomplished fact! He has control over my life and the circumstances of my life. All things are working together for good because I love Him! I've been called according to His purpose!
- **Principalities and powers. They seem to be rankings in the demonic realm of angelic beings.** Paul tells how Christ is seated in the heavenly places, far above all principalities and powers in (*Eph 1:20-21*) *which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, [21] far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come*. Paul tells us how that through the cross, Jesus triumphed over the principalities and powers that were against us making an open display of His victory in (*Col 2:15*) *Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it*.

**Rom 8:39** *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.* (Not our love to Christ, but His love to us!)

- **Nothing shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.** The love of Christ and the love of God are one. The Father and the Spirit co-operate in our salvation, as we have been reminded so many times. **What matters is God's love to us, not our love to God!** Our love is weak and frail and fallible. It wanes and waxes, comes and goes. **Thank God that my salvation does not depend on me, but on God's love to me, which is an all-powerful love; not upon my frail grasp of Him, but upon His strong grasp of me!**
- **God said to Jeremiah, (Jer 1:5) "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you.** That is not only true of Jeremiah, but that's also true of you! Before you were ever conceived, God knew you! While you were being formed in the womb, God had His plans for your life. Oh, how wonderful it is to know that God is in control. It is important that we yield unto God in order that He might fulfill His purposes in and through our lives!
- **Do you ever desire a life free from trials and afflictions!** Sometimes we may think, wouldn't it be great if I just had this trial-free Christianity? But then you realize, virtually everything we learn, we learn in a difficult place! When we are just left with Him and us, and His promises! Then what happens in our life between Him and us, as He demonstrates His love to us, demonstrating to us that He is going to have the final say? What is being said here, is that God loves me right here, right now! There is not one single thing in all of creation put together that can separate you, or change that love of His toward us!

#### **SUMMARY:**

- **Vs. 26-27 – The Holy Spirit also helps us in our weakness** – how to pray as we ought! Makes intercession for us with wordless groanings
- **Vs. 28-30 – All things work together for good for believers! Steps to glorification;** steps to glorification: Foreknowledge; Predestinated to be conformed to His Son's image; That He might be the firstborn among many brethren; Called! Justified! He also glorified!
- **Vs. 31-36 – God's everlasting love! Nothing against us!** Having given the greatest gift, that of His Son, shall He not freely give us all things? Who shall bring a charge against us? Show us he who condemns? Who or what shall separate us from the love of Christ? Not tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, peril or sword!
- **Vs. 37 – We are more than conquerors!**
- **Vs. 38 – Nothing can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord!** Not our love to Christ, **but His love to us!** Our salvation is absolutely secure, forever!
- **O LOVE THAT WILL NOT LET ME GO**

***O LOVE THAT WILL NOT LET ME GO*** - George Matheson/Albert Peace 1882 (2:50/2:46)

*1 O Love that will not let me go, I rest my weary soul in thee. I give thee back the life I owe, that in thine ocean depths its flow **may richer, fuller be.***

*2 O Light that follows all my way, I yield my flick'ring torch to thee. My heart restores its borrowed ray, that in thy sunshine's blaze its day **may brighter, fairer be.***

*3 O Joy that seekest me through pain, I cannot close my heart to thee. I trace the rainbow through the rain, and feel the promise is not vain, **that morn shall tearless be.***

*4 O Cross that liftest up my head, I dare not ask to fly from thee. I lay in dust, life's glory dead, and from the ground **there blossoms red, life that shall endless be.***

**CLOSING PRAYER: Read and meditate over Romans Chapter 9!**