



MESSAGE/SERIES:

LOVE THAT ENDURES “**Certain Suffering for the Saint**” -*Pastor Michael Baker*

DATE: February 24, 2019

SCRIPTURE FOR THIS WEEK: **Romans 8: 35-39, Psalms 44:22, Romans 5:3-5, Acts 20:24, 1 Corinthians 15:57, John 16:33, John 10:22-30**

OPENING SCRIPTURE: Romans 8:35-39

*“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall **tribulation**, or **distress**, or **persecution**, or **famine**, or **nakedness**, or **danger**, or **sword**?³⁶ As it is written,*

*“For your sake we are being killed all the day long;
we are regarded 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 sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers,³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

The Holy Bible: English Standard Version (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Ro 8:35–39.

Is there anything that can separate us from...An Enduring Love..

OUTLINE:

(v35) “Who shall **separate us** from **the love of Christ?**” (see terms)

- “**Who**”- who? what? marker of a question, referring to a person or thing
 - *This Greek interrogative covers the question of any person, or created thing*
- “**Separate**”- “to put apart, separate,” “**to separate oneself, to depart from,**”
- “**Love**”- *agapē, ag-ah’pay; love, i.e. affection or benevolence*
 - **Benevolence of God**= *The attitude of intending or the action of doing good toward others*

=Who or What (as indicated in next section) can separate you from the Love of God if you are truly His to begin with?

(v35 b) “**Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?**”

- “**Tribulation**”- *Pressures of life from others, trouble, hardships (Physical, mental/psychological, social, economical adversity)--pressed down as to Squash= (Hardships as we spoke of last week)*
- “**Distress**”- *narrow, thin, poor, Narrowness of space, confined space, difficulty, especially oppressive and constricting conditions where the path is very narrow*
- “**Persecution**”- *persecution, harassment, oppression*
- “**Famine**”- *going without food*
- “**Nakedness**”- *without clothing, or poorly clothed can be indicated in the Greco-Roman culture*
- “**Danger**”- *Conditions susceptible to harm or injury*

- **“Sword”- Death**

=None of these circumstances can separate us from the Love of God (His unconditional love that is extended to His elect (Romans 8:28-29)

=His love is anchored not in the circumstances or even our response to the circumstances.

(v36) “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

- We are guaranteed to suffer for Christ...
 - This before mentioned: **tribulation**, or **distress**, or **persecution**, or **famine**, or **nakedness**, or **danger**, or **sword** are to be expected for the sake of Christ and His kingdom

(v37) “No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.”

- I find great joy that the cause of Christ will win out in my life for my good and His glory
 - Maybe *you are struggling in your faith* and it is in the Tribulation and distress that Christ shows you his love and you gain eternal hope for your life
 - Maybe it's *in the persecution for your faith in Christ* that the enemy sees your love for Christ coming through
 - Maybe it's *in your darkest hour of need*, famine, nakedness, danger, and even death that the enemy is shown to be defeated and captives of the enemy are set free through that Love that drives you even to the end...

“More than Conquerors” ...

1 Corinthians 15:57 *“But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”* ⁵⁸ *Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.”*

The Holy Bible: English Standard Version (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), 1 Co 15:57–58.

(v37) Greek “Conquerors” *hypernikōmen*, ‘we are super-conquerors.’

F. F. Bruce, *Romans: An Introduction and Commentary*, vol. 6, Tyndale New Testament Commentaries (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1985), 180.

(v38-39) “For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Holy Bible: English Standard Version (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Ro 8:38–39.

- neither **death nor life**- “the separation of the Soul from the physical body” or “very existence” =Death nor the things in life can separate us from the love of God
- nor **angels nor rulers**- no angelic power good or bad can separate us (Ephesians 6:12:)
- nor **things present nor things to come**- There is nothing in this present time nor in the unknown future that will ever separate you from the love of God
- **nor powers**, =*dunamis* (δύναμις) “power, ability,” physical or moral, as residing in a person or thing; (b) “power in action,” as, e.g., when put forth in performing miracles.

W. E. Vine, Merrill F. Unger, and William White Jr., *Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words* (Nashville, TN: T. Nelson, 1996), 2.

- nor **height nor depth**, - ‘Height’ and ‘depth’ were **technical terms in astrology**, and later in Gnosticism. Paul need not have had their technical significance in mind; but if he had, they would be closely associated with the *principalities* and *powers* that were believed to control the movements of the heavenly bodies, especially the planets, and thus to control the destinies of mortals. But fate, whether real or imaginary, has no power over those whose ‘life is hid with Christ in God’ (Col. 3:3).

F. F. Bruce, *Romans: An Introduction and Commentary*, vol. 6, Tyndale New Testament Commentaries (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1985), 180–181.

- nor **anything else in all creation**- Just to be absolutely clear here Paul says nothing in all of the universe of in all creation can separate us from the love of God

=Paul ultimately is answering a question he puts forward in Romans 8:31, ³¹ ***What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?***

The Holy Bible: English Standard Version (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Ro 8:31.

God Doesn't Just Throw us Away_GOD IS FOR US!

TERMS:

(v39) **“Separate us”**- *chorizo* (χωρίζω, 5563), “to put apart, separate,” means, in the middle voice, **“to separate oneself, to depart from,”** Acts 1:4; 18:1–2; in marital affairs, 1 Cor. 7:10–11, 15; “departed” (rv corrects to “was parted”), Philem. 15. The verb is also used in Matt. 19:6; Mark 10:9; **Rom. 8:35, 39**; Heb. 7:26.

W. E. Vine, Merrill F. Unger, and William White Jr., *Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words* (Nashville, TN: T. Nelson, 1996), 159.

OTHER STUDY HELPS:

(v35-36) Lists of hardships were common in Greco-Roman literature (especially used to show that the wise man had passed all tests and lived what he believed). **“Nakedness”** was applied to insufficient dress, not only to complete exposure. **“Sword”** was the standard mode of citizen execution in this period, and the citation from Psalm 44:22 (applied by second-century rabbis to martyrdom) reinforces the certainty that martyrdom is in view here (8:36).

Craig S. Keener, *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1993), Ro 8:35–36.

-----Message from Pastor Michael-----
Church,

So, the question is are you suffering and questioning if it has purpose? Are you serving and feel the pressure and distress of this life all around you? Can you stop and ask yourself the question Paul asks and then answers in our section today...” If God be for you, who can be against you?” The enemy and your flesh are against the kingdom by you as part of the Kingdom are safe in His love and the love is poured out on His suffering saints and He will be glorified in us. God’s plan is perfect with all its battles and struggles... will you rest in His perfect plan and strive to rest in His love and care this week? Can you get past the menial and impotent forces that are already defeated?

Love in Christ,

