

**Date:** 04-05-2020  
**Series:** Coronavirus

## NOTHING CAN SEPARATE US FROM THE LOVE OF CHRIST!

(Romans 8:35-39)

(Disease experts: the next couple of weeks may be some of the most difficult in regard to the increase in infections as well as deaths. Their hope, of course, is that, like China and Italy, we will begin to see the numbers start lessening very soon.)

Question on many minds: “Where is God in all of this?”

This morning, what I would like to do is to encourage your hearts through the words Paul shared with the Christians who lived in first-century Rome who were also surrounded by incredible uncertainty and suffering.

Please turn to Romans 8.

**Romans 8:35–39**-----<sup>35</sup> Who [Gk = who or what] shall separate us from the love of Christ?

= rhetorical question---no one and nothing!!!!!!

In spite of how bad everything is currently, Christ’s love for us has not been removed. He knows every difficulty we are facing, and He promises to never leave us nor forsake us.

I know that next Sunday is Easter, but allow me to share a great quotation with you a week early. British scholar N. T. Wright wrote the following words: “We are not to be surprised if living as Christians brings us to the place where we find we are at the end of our own resources, and that we are called to rely on the God who raises the dead.”

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End of v. 35 = seven common forms of suffering:

**Shall tribulation**, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword (death)?

Paul gives us a long list here because he is trying to emphasize an important truth to people who are suffering. He’s saying: “*Make the list as long as you want! Put as many things as you can think of that might go wrong! Can anything bad that can happen to us as God’s people separate us from Christ and His love? No, no, and no! Nothing! Nada! V. 36:*

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

What Paul is saying here is that even if our problems are so intense that we feel like a sheep just waiting all day long to be slaughtered, v. 37 tells us:

<sup>37</sup> Yet in all these things we are **more than conquerors** through Him who loved us.

Our victory over everything that life can possibly throw at us is **ALWAYS** and **ONLY** found “through Him who loved us”—our Lord Jesus Christ. He told us, “Without Me, you can do nothing” (John 15:5).

Long-time pastor and theologian Eugene Peterson wrote:

**Suffering is not evidence** of God's absence, but of God's presence, and it is in our experience of being broken that God does his surest and most characteristic ... work. There is a way to accept, embrace, and deal with suffering that results in a better life, not a worse one, and more of the experience of God, not less. God is working out his [deliverance] in our lives the way he has always worked it out—at the place of brokenness, at the cross of Jesus, and at the very place where we take up our cross.

We need to let that sink deep down into our minds---“Suffering is not evidence of God’s absence, but of God’s presence...” That is so, so, so true!!!!

The reason Paul can say, in all of our sufferings, “we are **more than conquerors** through Him who love us,” is found in v. 38.

We are more than conquerors through Christ...

<sup>38</sup> For **[BECAUSE!!!!!!]** I am persuaded [TOTALLY CONVINCED] that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, [DEMONIC BEINGS] nor things present [INCLUDING CORONA] nor things to come, <sup>39</sup> **nor height nor depth**, nor any other created thing [NOT A SINGLE CREATED BEING NATURAL OR SUPERNATURAL], shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Closing story:** In 2003 .... when I had another grand mal seizure and was taken to Baylor Hospital in Garland. Middle of the night...**face to the wall**... a verse came to my mind: “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

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---If you are a believer in Christ... no matter what life throws at you, you have God’s promise. You can take it to the bank. Rest in that.

---Words to those not 100% sure...

**John 5:24**-----<sup>24</sup> “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.