

I. INTRODUCTION.

A. Scripture text: **Romans 8:35-39.**

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? [36] Just as it is written, "FOR THY SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG; WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED." [37] But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. [38] For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, [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.

B. God is the greatest of all lovers. His love for humankind is supreme in all cases.

C. God so loved the world that He sent His only Son (Jn. 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 eternal life.

D. The Bible says that God is love. When we think of the greatest of all attributes of man we are to think of God (1Jn. 4:8; 1Cor. 13:13).

(1Cor 13:13) But now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

(1Jn 4:8) The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

E. John also writes in his first letter that perfect love casts out fear.

II. THINGS THAT CAUSE US TO FEAR.

A. The text (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?

B. In our scripture reading a question is asked, "Who shall separate us from the love of God?" The answer is no one, including the devil.

C. The devil tempts us to sin, and sin separates us from our fellowship of God, but the devil can do nothing to separate us from the love of God.

D. Paul lists some physical things that cause fear, but do not separate one from God's love:

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| 1. Tribulation (pain, suffering). | 5. Nakedness (poverty). |
| 2. Distress (deep anguish). | 6. Peril (danger or risk). |
| 3. Persecution (external trouble). | 7. Sword (war). |
| 4. Famine (hunger). | |

E. All of these things were things readily understood by the early Xians.

F. To conquer these we again must turn to the love of God. When people are struck with calamity they need someone to turn to that understands and gives love and support. God is such a one.

G. The things listed above are not to be thought of as punishments from God due to sin. All Xians who desire to live a godly life will suffer these things (2Tim. 3:12). The point being made is that when the going gets tough the love of God is still there.

H. Jesus has told us not to worry (Mt. 6:31-33; 10:28).

I. The point again is that God loves us too much to allow these kinds of fears to overtake us. Knowing that the Creator of the universe loves His creation should be incentive to not worry.

III. THE SPECIAL WORRIES OF CHRISTIANS.

A. Paul mentions in Rom. 8:36,37 a special concern of the child of God.

Just as it is written, "FOR THY SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG; WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED." [37] But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.

B. Xians are always under harassment by the devil. Satan uses everything he can think of to get Xians to sin and to keep them from practicing righteousness.

- C. As sheep are delivered to we slaughtered” as are to be a continual sacrifice for X (Rom. 12:1,2).
- D. Being delivered over to physical death is something that need not be feared if we are already dead to the world.
- E. You cannot hurt a dead animal by kicking it. The world cannot hurt Xians if they are truly dead to the world. Xians who “wait on the Lord” and put their trust in Jehovah realize that they have God’s love working for them.
- F. We can become more than a conqueror in X.

IV. THE TANGIBLE THINGS WE WORRY ABOUT.

- A. To some degree or another we all have the worries found in Rom. 8:38,39.
For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, [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.
- B. We worry about:
 1. Death (and rightfully so, we realize that we are terminal).
 2. Life (what to do what not to do in certain situations).
 3. Powers and principalities that can change our lives without our approval (strikes, layoffs, etc.).
 4. Life in times of success and fortune (nor height).
 5. Life in times of depression and misery (nor depth).
 6. Things present (daily concerns).
 7. Things to come (the future).
 8. Created things (cars, homes, possessions).
- C. We worry in times of depression and misery and we even worry in times of success and fortune.
- D. Yet, in all of this we must realize that God and X are on our side. Their love still comes our way even when others are forsaking.

V. CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. One preacher has said, “Before I get out of bed every morning I read Rom. 8 and if verse 28 is still in there I get up.”
And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.
- B. When we come to realize that God loves us and He wants us to be saved; we can begin to worry less and start living more.
- C. When we realize that no matter how much we have suffered in life that God will always love us and desire to forgive us we can come to Him for eternal life.
- D. Let us not become discouraged and depressed about life, God is love and His love is directed toward us. What can separate us from the love of God? Nothing, absolutely nothing.
- E. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring-Xians.