



Romans 8:31-39

OUR SECURITY & VICTORY IN CHRIST'S LOVE!

It has ever been one of the characteristics of the greatest saints that they have spent much time in meditating upon the love of Christ to themselves and to all God's people. Nothing has given them greater joy. Indeed, this is a characteristic of love at all levels: it delights in thinking not only of the object of its love, but also of the love it receives. Nothing therefore should give greater joy to all God's people than to meditate upon this love of Christ. Indeed, our chief defect as Christians is that we fail to realize Christ's love to us. How often have you thought about this? We spend time thinking about our activities and our problems, but the most important necessity in the Christian life is to know Christ's love to us, and to meditate upon it. This has always been the spring and the source of the greatest activity that has ever been manifested in the long history of the Christian Church.

—D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones (1899-1981)

In Romans 6-8, Paul focuses on our **sanctification** in Christ—our progressive transformation into the image of Christ, being set apart from the world and reflecting more of His character.

This transformation, empowered by the Spirit, often takes us through times of difficulty, suffering, and even persecution.

Paul wrote his epistle to the Romans around AD 57. The early church had already suffered periods of persecution, mostly from the Jewish leaders (cf. Acts 4, 7-8, 12, 14, 18, 21-23) but, in AD 64, the Roman emperor _____, in an effort to find a scapegoat for the fires that destroyed Rome, unleashed his full fury against the early Christians. The church, with limited resources and no political power, would face its greatest threat...and that threat would continue for the next 250 years. The words of Romans 8:31-39 would help carry them through.

Paul's Initial Three Questions (8:31-32)

1. What shall we say to these things?
2. If God is for us, who can be against us?
3. If God graciously gave us His own Son, how can we ever doubt that He will bless us with every possible blessing?

While God is for us, and we keep in his love, we may with a holy boldness defy all the powers of darkness. Let Satan do his worst, he is chained. Let the world do its worst, it is conquered. Principalities and powers are spoiled and disarmed, and triumphed over, in the cross of Christ. Who then dares fight against us, while God himself is fighting for us?

—Matthew Henry (1662-1714)

All human efforts, all the lavish gifts of the emperor, and the propitiations of the gods, did not banish the sinister belief that the fire was the result of an order [from Nero]. Consequently, to get rid of the report, Nero fastened the guilt and inflicted the most exquisite tortures on a class hated for their abominations, called Christians by the populace. Christ, from whom the name had its origin, was executed during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of one of our procurators, Pontius Pilatus. —Tacitus (AD 56-117)

Who delivered up Jesus to die? Not Judas, for money; not Pilate, for fear, not the Jews, for envy—but the Father, for love!

—Octavius Winslow (1808-78)

CAN OUR OWN SIN SEPARATE US FROM GOD'S LOVE? (8:33-34)

- We have _____ against us (cf. Rev. 12:10).
- We have a God who has already _____ us.
- We have a Savior who has entered our world, died for us, risen from the dead, and ascended to the right hand of God where He _____ for us (cf. Heb. 7:20-25).

CAN SUFFERING, PERSECUTION, OR DEATH SEPARATE US FROM GOD'S LOVE? (8:35-37; cf. 2 Corinthians 11:22-33)

- We will suffer in _____ (cf. John 16:33).
- We will suffer as _____ (cf. Ps. 44:22).
- We will triumph as _____ through Him who loved us (cf. 2 Cor. 2:14; 1 John 5:4-5).

CAN ABSOLUTELY ANYTHING IN THIS ENTIRE UNIVERSE SEPARATE US FROM GOD'S LOVE? (8:38-39)

- *Death or life?*
- *Angels or demons or other powers?*
- *The present or the future?*
- *Anything above us or below us?*
- *Anything at all?*

Absolutely _____ shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord!

In Christ, I am chosen for a purpose, loved beyond measure, and secure for all eternity. Thus, I am free to rejoice!

God loves each of us as if there were only one of us.
—Augustine (354-430)

Jesus sits at the right hand of the Father, and the wounds in His hands and feet, the scars in His brow, the hole in His side settle the issue. Jesus isn't talking the Father into being merciful to me. He's not asking the Father to be lenient with me. His scars alone are sufficient. —Jon Courson

More than conquerors. Greek, *hupernikao*, "overwhelmingly conquer, supremely victorious."

The "sheep for slaughter" are actually more than conquerors.
—William Newell

Hate can make a man a conqueror, can fill him with furious energy, but only love can make him "more than a conqueror."
—W. B. J. Martin

The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church.
—Tertullian (AD 155-220)

The church has been the anvil, and the world has been the hammer; and though the anvil has done nothing but bear the stroke, she has broken all the hammers, as she will do to the world's end. —Charles Spurgeon

Who can add to Christmas? The perfect motive is that God so loved the world. The perfect gift is that He gave His only Son.
—Corrie ten Boom

*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.*
—George Matheson