

Summer 2020



Romans 8:38–39

38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demon neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Reflection

Outside of the gospels, Romans 8 must be one of the most loved, most cherished and most important chapters in the New Testament. It ends with some of the most beautiful language and most precious words in all of Scripture, Romans 8:38–39. Just listen to Paul at his finest,

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But perhaps to fully appreciate these words we need to start a little earlier in the chapter. I'll read from verse 31 right down

to Paul's powerful ending in our verses today. As I do, feel his excitement; try and make his excitement, confidence and triumph yours, because it is yours in Jesus,

31 What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? 33 Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. 34 Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the

love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? 36 As it is written:

“For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered 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 convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

I'm not sure what battles you will face up to this year. Even though we like to think differently, in reality, not one of us knows with certainty even what the very next minute holds, let alone a whole year. This coming year may be one of triumph or tragedy; promotion or redundancy; new levels of fitness or debilitating sickness; you may meet the love of your life or lose him; you may be incredibly blessed or find yourself unspeakably wronged. But the Christian, against the torrential and unrelenting flood of life, whether at high watermark or low, is never carried away. Because of words like these: 'If God is for us, who can be against us?' And logic like this, 'He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?'. So that even amidst the storm, when all

around us are shrinking back in fear, we can ask with confidence, 'Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword.' And we can answer, 'No, nothing.' Our verse today, Paul's conviction is ours,

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Nothing can separate us from the love of Christ. Nothing. Not terminal cancer nor misfortune after misfortune. Not supernat-

ural beings like angels or demons. Nothing that happens today or any day. Not Satan nor any of the influence he wields. Not the highest heights or the deepest depths. Nothing, in all of creation, is able to separate us from the love of Christ.

Think & Pray

Meditate and pray over this promise this morning. Memorise it, cherish it, and bind it to your soul. Store it up for when you need it most; or perhaps right now you need it most. A friend of our family has found herself in the late stages of terminal cancer. She's overwhelmed — by the love of God. She's struggling to come to terms with — the peace that she finds daily in heart. Because in Christ we are more than conquerors. We are invincible. This world

and everything in it has no hold over us. Even if it should do its worst God is for us which means that nothing can ultimately prevail against us. Not even terminal cancer or whatever it is that you fear the most. We are secure in his love and nothing can separate us from it. His love is the greatest and most enduring treasure ever to be possessed by humankind and it is ours, forever, in Christ Jesus, to be enjoyed today. Rise above and enjoy it today.