

God's Everlasting Love

Romans 8:31-39

31 What then shall we say 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 with him graciously give us all things? 33 Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. 35 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 assurance, hope, and comfort from the grace of God revealed through Jesus Christ is nowhere stated with greater confidence and exuberance than in this text. It should lift every believer's heart!

When Paul asks: *If God is for us* the form of the condition makes it clear that there is no doubt about it. Since we have God on our side, no one can hinder our salvation. The reason for such confidence is that God did not spare his Son, Jesus.

Verses 33 and 34 have a court of law in mind. No charge can be brought against the Christian because God has already pronounced a verdict of not guilty. (CSB)

Christ now sits at the right hand of God; He has the same power, honor and Godhead as God. Therefore, when He intercedes with God for us, when He entreats for us when we sin, the goal of this intercession is certainly also reached. Christ's intercession is the continuous urging of His bloody merit before God.

Verse 35 asks *who will separate us from the love of Christ*. This is a rhetorical question with mounting intensity. The same answer follows—“nothing and no one!” (TLSB)

Paul lists seven things that threaten to come between us and Christ's love. The list of seven trials were faced by Christians through the ages. Some believe the list of seven represents an actual inventory of challenges endured by first-century Christians, Paul among them.

No only will they not be separated from God's love, but they will be *more than conquerors*. It means to completely prevail. We are blowout winners. That, however, is no credit to us, because it will not come about by anything we do. It will not be accomplished by our love and devotion for the Lord. Rather, it is entirely the other way around. We're conquerors “through him who loved us.” when it is his love that carries the day.

The text ends with a tenfold list is all-embracing inventory of superhuman realities that threaten, in vain, to break the grip of Christ's love. (See FC SD XI 48–49.) (TLSB)

Prayer: Lord Jesus, though You are exalted at the Father's right hand, You still hold us. Keep us in Your love to the end. Amen. (TLSB)