

ROMANS 8:35-39 THE BELIEVERS ASSURANCE

I have an observation, question and answer: Who are they who fall away?

- If the Christian's faith and salvation is guaranteed by God Himself what about the warning of a great falling away in the last days?
- 2 Thess. 2:3a, let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come* unless the falling away comes first,
- 1 Tim. 4:1, Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,
- Who then are those who fall away of which Paul speaks?
- We find this answer in several of Christ's parables, and in them we must recognize the distinction between a profession of Christ and a possession of Christ.
- See Mt. 25. 10 virgins, sheep and goats, Mt. 7. Depart from me, Mt. 13: the Sower and the soil, the wheat and the tares, and the net cast into the sea and good and bad fish were brought in.
- And the Apostle John answers this for us, **1 Jn. 2:19**.
- So, the Apostle Peter tells in in his second epistle, **2:4-11** Make your calling and election sure.

INTRO & REVIEW: Now let's begin our study of this last section.

READ 8:30-39

- All that Paul has spoken to us in this chapter is a verbal display of God's unchanging love to us. God's children, His Church.
- The loving foreknowledge, the predestination, calling, justification and final glorification, all evidence and fruit of God's love to us.
- The acquittal, the verdict of "no condemnation," is all evidence of His eternal love given to us through the Holy Spirit.
- All given by His free will, nothing motivated, earned or deserved by some goodness in us.
- Now this last section of this chapter, vs 35-39, closes out with the assurance of the love that is in Christ Jesus our Lord for His church.
- Here in vs. 35 we need to remind ourselves what Paul has been saying and teaching.
- That he has laid out a series of challenges and proofs to the doctrine of final preservation of the saints, secured by the love of God.
- The true Christians unchangeable, unalterable eternal safety held by God's immutable love.
- Now the first challenge to our security, that is, the first question Paul brings up was in vs 31, where he first questions, what shall we say about these things, the golden chain, is it fail proof?

- Then quickly answers the question, If God is for us, who can be against us.
- Then the challenge, will God's love for us fade, will He change His mind toward us?
- This he also answers in vs. 32, with the historical display of His love, in that He spared not His own beloved Son on our behalf, and will He not with Him freely give us all things, things pertaining to godliness and our eternal safety.
- Then in vs 33 the question, can someone bring an effective charge against God's elect? No for it is God Himself who justifies.
- And in vs. 34 who can condemn us, and we are answered, Christ has died, He has been raised from the dead, ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, and now intercedes for us.
- All questions of opposition thus answered to this point.
- Now in verse 35 Paul brings the last challenge to our security, that is the possibility that we might fail and thus fallout from God's love.
- Paul goes on to the end of the chapter proving that this is impossible, God's love for us will not be separated from us, thus we will not be separated from His love.

QUESTION 7: WHO SHALL SEPARATE US FROM THE LOVE OF CHRIST?

- The question here in vs 35 and answered in the following verse is basically, what if we as a result of trials, troubles and tribulation should somehow be severed from the love of Christ?
- And we have seen in the golden chain He in His absolute faithfulness has made a finished work of our salvation.
- He then in vs. 36, quotes psalm 44:22 from the Septuagint. Let's look at it a bit.
- Notice the picture Paul paints of the Christian life is not a life of ease, a life free from trials.
- These early believers, really lived in severe persecution, even as in some countries it still true today and Has been in every age, and this because they were followers of Jesus.
- They were told they must renounce their Christianity and its Christ and confess Caesar as lord. They would not embrace their culture even if it cost them or their loved ones torture and death.
- "Killed all the day long." Vs. 36, This phrase is one word in the GK. and is an illustration, an impression intended to bring to mind the Roman use of a agricultural tool know as a "tribulum."
- From this word we get our English word, "tribulation."
- It resembled a rather large wooden sled, built to about 4' long x 2.5' wide, and about 3-5" thick. The heavier the better.
- The under side was impregnated with many, sometimes hundreds of shards of flint hammered into the wood bottom.

- Sometimes iron nails or spike would be used.
- This tribulum was then pulled over the grain to cut, crush, and tear the seed away from the stems, stocks and chaff.
- It was pulled around by either a man, mule or ox. Sometimes it was weighted by rocks or a rider.
- The use of the word tribulation has this process in its mind, being run over, the tribulum dug over the body. This is the picture Paul uses here.
- The other term, in vs 36, "accounted as sheep for the slaughter" envisions a sheep hold of sheep chosen and waiting for slaughter.
- So much for the best life now gospel.

LOVE:

- It is a striking thing to notice here that the love spoken of is not our love to God but His love toward us.
- First, I would like to draw our attention to and notice that what love is in question here is not our love for God, but God's keeping love toward us.
- Also notice in these verses we see that the Father's love for us and the Son's love is interchangeable. Vs. 35, 37, 39. Showing equality of divinity.
- As per Paul's usual pattern, he then lists the things that may come and challenge our faith and love. Read again 35-39.
- But the real question does not change, will God's love for us fail to keep us in love with Him? This is the question.
- It is God's love that is challenged, is it strong, dependable, trustworthy, or is it transient, fickle and changing?
- Can this love, this faith we have been given by grace from God and for God fail? Be severed, be amputate?
- Can it remain and hold us through these trials and tribulation?
- The love of Christ, 35, vs 37 Him that loved us, vs 39 love of God in Christ Jesus the Lord.
- The true Christian, true child of God will not be pulled away from the keeping saving love of God.

WHO IS THIS PROMISE OF LOVING FOR? THE US?

- Let us notice the word or pronoun "US" in vs. 35 & 39, this identifies to whom Paul is guaranteeing the unfailing, keeping love of God.
- In the original GK. it has a slight emphasis lain on it by its position in the text.
- The US is first identified in 1:7, To all who are in Rome, beloved of God, called *to be* saints: and then throughout the epistle as identified here as the foreknown, predestined, called, justified, glorified.

THE GREAT ANSWER:

- **Vs. 37 NO in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved and loves us.**
- **It is through Him that loved and goes on loving us that we conquer. We ride in His victory.**
- **Our love may temporarily falter but His love will never fail or be defeated.**
 - **Heb. 13:5-6, I will never leave you nor forsake you.”⁶ So we may boldly say: “The LORD *is* my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?”**
 - **2 Tim. 2:13, If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.**
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