ROMANS 8-35-39 PART 3

REVIEW/INTRO:

- **The question asked here is, (vs. 35) can this love, this faith we have been given by grace from God and for God fail? Can it be severed, be amputated? Can the power and love of God keep us loving Him?**
- **Can it remain and hold us through life's trials and tribulation?**
- **Oh, how wonderful that we need not trust our often weak and wavering efforts to love God, it will not due, it will not hold.**
- **The weight of our own love anchor is far too light to hold our vessel in the Severe storms of life.**
- **But by faith we embrace the command of God when He says, the just shall live by faith.**
- **We must believe this and open our hearts to accept His love especially when our enemy whispers in our ears, God loves others, you He cannot, and does not love.**
- **Let's notice the great promises that bookend this chapter, as it started with the word of release, "no condemnation. Vs. 1**
- **And now ends with the unbreakable comforting bond of "no separation." No condemnation to no separation.**
- **In the previous verses, 31-34 the believer has been relieved from fears within, no charge, no condemnation.**
- **He now moves on to relieve believers from the fear from without in vs. 35-39.**
- **A clear conscience, due to acquittal and a known acceptance is a great confidence in the overcoming the trials that will face believers.**

Vs. 35;

- **The trials of the unbelievers is a result of their sin and the wrath of God, but the afflictions of the people of God are corrective and yet beneficial.**
- **while instead of separating us from the love of God it yields the peaceable fruits of righteousness. (Heb. 12:11)**
- **And proves to be for our profit, "that we be not condemned with the world", "but be partakers of His holiness." (1 Cor. 11:32, Heb. 12:10)**
- **And as Christ says in Rev. 3:19, as many as I love I chasten.**

- **TRIBULATIONS: to crush, press together, squash, hem in, compress, squeeze to break.**
- **It is a pressing together as of grapes. It conveys the idea of being squeezed or placed under pressure or crushed beneath a weight.**
- **originally expressed sheer, physical pressure on a man. It refers to troubles pressing upon someone from without, such as persecution, affliction, or tribulation.**

- **When, according to the ancient law of England, those who willfully refused to plead guilty, had heavy weights placed on their chests, and were pressed and crushed to death,**
- **Thlipsis is a strong term which does not refer to minor inconveniences, but to real hardships.**
- **<u>DISTRESS</u>: to be in straights, critical situation, under pressure and troubles. A place where there seems to be no way to escape, no way out.**
- **A narrow place in which one is so pressed or pressured that we know not where to go or turn.**
- **Distress is literally a narrow space and figuratively describes the "tight places" believers have to go through. It has in view the distress which arises from within (usually caused by tribulations), such as anguish or discomfort.**
- **The picture is of a person finding themselves in a tight corner without the possibility of escape, this severe confinement or constriction causing anguish or severe distress.**
- **It might be used of an army caught in a narrow, rocky valley with space neither to maneuver nor to escape. It might be used of a ship caught in a storm with no room either to ride it or to run before it.**
    - **Ps 118:5 where the psalmist writes "From my distress I called upon the LORD. The LORD answered me and set me in a large place.**

- **<u>PERSECUTIONS</u>: Afflictions for the gospel,**
    - **Mt. 5:10 Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**
    - **If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, 'A slave is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you" (Jn 15:19-20,15:20) "and you will be hated by all on account of My name." (Lu 21:17)**

- **<u>PERILS:</u> One's life put at risk for the gospel's sake.**

- **<u>SWORD</u>: applied literally and would speak of execution. Martyrdom.**

<u>37</u> <u>MORE THAN CONQUORS:</u>

- **Not only will nothing separate us from God's love to us, and our love to Him, but we are to be found more that conquerors through Him that loved us.**
- **The phrase, "<u>more than conquerors</u>" is one compound word in the GK. Here is the only time it is used in the N.T.**
- **Hup-air (Huper) meaning; above, to come off more than.**
- **Nik-ah-oh, (Nikao) meaning; to conquer, to carry off the victory, to come off victorious**

- **It means to be super victorious. Coming through with more than we entered with.**
- **The similar word is used in 2 Cor. 4:17, For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a *far more exceeding and* eternal weight of glory.**
- **This term is intended to remind us that the life of the believer is a warfare in which we are called to combat, both that which is within and that which is without.**
    - **"The Christian is born a soldier, and no sooner born than the drum beats, and he is called to the field; he is not born to get land and gold, but to perform great exploits." William Gurnall.**
- **Those things intended by our adversaries to sever us, to amputate us from the love of Christ not only fails, but adds to the supremacy of out victory as we see in Rom. 5:3-5. Here is present fruit,**
- **And 2 Tim. 4:6-8 future fruit.**
- **We are not simply enabled by His love, to hang in there, somehow to just make it by the skin of our teeth.**
- **And not just to be a victor in our life's difficulties, but more than victors and conquerors in and through it all.**
- **Think of the trials we have faced, and may be facing, this is where the reality of Christ's promises to us confront us, where faith is challenged, where the rubber of faith hits the road of life.**
- **We see and acknowledge God's faithfulness to us in our past, certainly He will be faithful in our tomorrows, whatever comes.**
- **We have found we are not able to make it by our own strength, might, or wisdom, or resourcefulness, but by the power of the love of God shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit.**
- **May we qualify for the commendation of Paul to the Christian in Thessalonica,**
    - **And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit, (1 Thess. 1:6).**
- **what a blessing and relief it is when we discover our weakness and, in that brokenness, and humility to be made strong, more that conquerors.**
    - **2 Cor. 12:10 when I am weak than I am strong.**
- **See also Heb. 4:1-11 entering into God's rest!**
- **Now regarding the greatest dangers to the love of God in our hearts here in western civilization is not so much the opposition to our faith and persecution, but the enticements, the desires and the short-seasoned false pleasures of this life, this age.**
- **Actually, these tribulations God can use to sever us from the deceitful temporal promises and trappings of this world, this passing and ill promised pleasures of this life.**
- **These hardships remind and reinforce the fact that we are aliens and sojourners in this world, earth is not our home.**

    - **We are strangers and pilgrims and these trials help us to long for the glory which is to come even in some measure like Paul speaks of in vs 18.**
- **I am reminded of Israel when they were freed from Egypt, where their former tormentors not only released them and were overcome by the power of God, but gave to them their own wealth. The spoiled themselves for Israel.**
    - **1 Cor. 3:21-22. All things are yours.**
- **How then is the Christian empowered for war and be made more than a conqueror over and in all these things?**
- **By the expulsive power of a greater affection! (Thomas Chalmers 1819)**