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CFBC... "More Than Conquerors" (Romans 8)

"TRUSTING GOD"

Romans 8:35-39

Trusting Jesus as our Savior and Lord introduces us to the Christian life. As a result, you are gloriously saved. That's what **Romans 8:28-34** is all about. Learning to trust the Lord after you are saved is a vital part of every believer's life.

Jeremiah 17:7-8... "Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD And whose trust is the LORD. **8** "For he will be like a tree planted by the water, That extends its roots by a stream And will not fear when the heat comes; But its leaves will be green, And it will not be anxious in a year of drought nor cease to yield fruit.

Paul hurls 5 questions into space, as it were, in a spirit of bold defiance . . .

If God is for us, who can be against us? (31)

How will He not also with Him graciously give us all things? (32)

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Who will bring a charge against God's elect? (33)

Who is the one who condemns? (34)

Who will separate us from the love of Christ (35)

Today we're moving into the climax of this amazing chapter. Beginning with the final question in verse 35, the emphasis changes from being gloriously saved to being wondrously loved. Let me ask you. Have you ever doubted God's love?

Maybe your doubt was triggered by a time of physical suffering, by a devastating personal loss, by a prayer that God didn't answer the way you wanted Him to, or by guilt over sin. Listen, God's love must not be measured by your comfort! We've already learned that **GOD IS FOR US, NOT AGAINST US**. Today, I've asked the Holy Spirit to carve this truth on your heart . . .

GOD LOVES YOU AT ALL TIMES!

With this in mind, I want you to hone in on . . .

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1. THE THEME OF GOD'S LOVE

God's love for people is a major theme of the Bible—in both the Old and New Testaments.

Deuteronomy 7:6–8... “For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for His own possession out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. **7** “The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any of the peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples, **8** but because the LORD loved you and kept the oath which He swore to your forefathers, the LORD brought you out by a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

Psalms 136:1... Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good, For His lovingkindness is everlasting. (This refrain is repeated in all 26 verses of this chapter.)

John 3:16... “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever

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believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life."

Romans 5:5,8 ... the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us **8** But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

A prominent theologian was talking with a group of seminary students. They asked him, *"What's the most profound thought about God that you have ever had?"* He paused for a minute and said . . .

**"Jesus loves me this I know
for the Bible tells me so!"**

There's no telling how many times Billy Graham preached on the love of God. He often said, *"If you knew that God loves you, it would transform your life!"*

GOD LOVES YOU AT ALL TIMES!

Okay, we've examined the theme of God's love. Let's turn our attention to . . .

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2. THE THREAT TO GOD'S LOVE

By this, I'm certainly not insinuating that God's love for you could ever be threatened by anything. I'm referring to the common threats that affect *your grasp of God's love for you and plant seeds of doubt in your mind and heart.*

Tribulation— This word refers to strong pressure. Perhaps life has been hard for you.

- **You may have been abused as a child.**
- **You have lost your job.**
- **You are experiencing grief.**
- **You are battling a severe illness.**

I want to remind you of something Jesus said to His disciples in the upper room just before He was crucified . . .

John 16:33... "These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world."

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Distress— This word carries the idea of being confined within a narrow and oppressive space. It's a feeling of being hemmed in.

Persecution— This was an ever-present possibility for the early church.

Famine—This word reminds us of the shakiness of food supplies in the world in the first century. Oftentimes persecuted believers did not have enough to eat.

Nakedness— In that culture, poverty was so severe that the believer was unable to buy the clothes he or she needed.

Peril— This word reminds us of the many risks the early Christians ran; professing one's faith was dangerous.

Sword— This means execution; it is the only item on the list that Paul had not experienced. In due time he would experience this also!

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Romans 8:36... Just as it is written, "FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG; WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED."

This quotation from Psalm 44:22 reinforces what Paul has been saying in the list we just went over.

We shouldn't be surprised if we suffer for the Lord as a result of our loyalty to Him. Those who have been faithful *have always suffered*.

The world views believers as sheep to be slaughtered (Iran, North Korea, China, Sudan, Nigeria, etc).

The troubles you face have been faced by countless others (Hebrews 11:32-38). I want you to know . . .

- You may face pressure in this world, but the Lord still loves you.
- You may be hemmed in by your circumstances, but the Lord still loves you.
- You may be persecuted, but the Lord still loves you.
- You may go hungry, but the Lord still loves you.

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- **You may need clothes, but the Lord still loves you.**
- **You may be subject to all kinds of danger, but the Lord still loves you.**
- **You may die as a martyr, but the Lord still loves you.**

How awesome is this! I want to say it again . . .

GOD LOVES YOU AT ALL TIMES!

Okay, we've examined the theme of God's love and the threat to God's love. It's time to turn our attention to . . .

3. THE TRIUMPH BY GOD'S LOVE

Romans 8:37... But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.

Sheep that conquer? The thought is stunning. Born again believers are in fact conquerors, because they have been loved by the Lord Jesus Christ and have been made conquerors "through him." HE

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conquered Satan, sin, and death. Because you have been gloriously saved, you are in Christ. Therefore, it can truly be stated that "You overwhelmingly conquer through HIM who loved us! The verb here is a compound word—"to gain a surpassing victory." Literally *"we are hyper-conquerors, we are pre-eminently victorious."*¹

Notice the verb—Him who loved us. It is in the past tense, therefore it alludes to the cross where the Savior offered His body and blood for us.

The ability to triumph over adversity does not arise from any inherent superiority you might think you have. It is the love of Christ that supports and enables the believer to face adversity and to conquer it . . .

Galatians 2:20... "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the

¹ W. E. Vine, Merrill F. Unger, and William White Jr., [Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words](#) (Nashville, TN: T. Nelson, 1996), 122.

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flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

The love of Christ, demonstrated so graphically on the cross, will empower you to overcome all the obstacles that life can throw at you. How could you possibly doubt the love of the Lord when you consider His atoning death on the cross!

GOD LOVES YOU AT ALL TIMES!

We've examined the theme of God's love and the threat to God's love and the triumph by God's love. Here's the climax . . .

4. THE TRUTH ABOUT GOD'S LOVE

Paul switches to the first-person pronoun here. It's the first time he has done so since verse 18. He reveals his personal convictions about 10 things that could sow seeds of doubt in your heart . . .

Romans 8:38... For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers.

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"I AM CONVINCED." This is a perfect tense verb meaning *"I have become and I remain convinced... I stand convinced."* To him this is an unalterable conclusion.

Death—This is an obvious antagonist, for people have always feared it.

Hebrews 2:14–15... Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, **15** and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.

Death is the greatest of all separators. It separates us from life itself. But it also separates us from places and the people we love. But it can never separate you from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus.

Life—Life is filled with disappointments, burdens, and uncertainties. None of this can separate you from the love of God.

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Angels—These are good angels. Not even they (speaking in hyperbole) could or would separate us from the love of God.

Principalities—Paul could not think of any demon separating a believer from the love of God

Nor things present—Whatever this present time may bring to bear on your life, it cannot sever you from God's love!

Nor things to come—Nothing that happens in the future will separate us from the love of God.

Nor powers—No principality or power in the heavens, on earth, or in hell can separate you from God's love. Remember, Jesus sits at the right hand of God, the place of highest power and authority.

Romans 8:39... nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Height—This word was used to speak of a star at its zenith. So it has to do with going out into the infinity of space.

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Depth— This word was used astronomically to speak of a star at its low point. So what he's saying is this. Nothing at either end of infinite outer space can separate us from the love of God.

Nor any other created thing—Paul abandons specifics and settles for a sweeping generalization wide enough to cover everything else that exists.

What can make God quit loving you? Note, the emphasis here is not on your love for Him but on His love for you! The answer is that ***nothing nor no one can make God quit loving you.***

CONCLUSION

On August 16, 1987, Northwest Airlines flight 225 crashed just after taking off from Detroit. 155 people were killed. One survived: a 4-year-old from Tempe, Arizona, named Cecelia. When rescuers found her, they assumed she had been a passenger in one of the cars on the highway where the plane crashed. But when the passenger register for the flight was checked, there was Cecelia's name.

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Cecelia survived because, as the plane was falling, her mother unbuckled her own seat belt, got down on her knees in front of her daughter, wrapped her arms and body around Cecelia, and then would not let her go. Nothing could separate her from her mom's love—not tragedy or disaster, not the fall or the flames that followed, not height nor depth, not life nor death. **Such is the love of our Savior for us. He left heaven and covered us with the sacrifice of His own body and blood on the cross to save us!**

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GOD LOVES YOU AT ALL TIMES!

Are you convinced? We've examined the theme of God's love and the threat to God's love and the triumph by God's love and the truth about God's love.

- Will you trust Jesus to be your Savior and Lord?
- Will you keep yourself in God's love? (Jude 21)

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In one of my favorite scenes of Charles Schultz "Peanuts" Lucy says to Charlie Brown " Sometimes, I feel we are not communicating: You, Charlie Brown, are a foul ball in the line drive of life. You're often in the shadow of your own goal post. You're a miscue. You're 3 putts on the 18th green. You are a 7-10 split in the 10th frame. You have dropped a rod and reel in the lake of life. You're a missed free throw. You're a shanked 9-iron, a called 3rd strike, a

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bug on the windshield of life! Do you understand?
Have I made myself clear?"

**A.W. Tozer once said, "Outside of the will of God,
there's nothing I want. Inside the will of God,
there's nothing I fear."**