

## “The Security of the Believer”

Romans 8:31~39, part 3

This morning we come to the final part of a 3-part message on the subject...“The Security of the Believer.” It is referred to by scholars as the doctrine of “Eternal Security,” or what is often referred to as “Once Saved, Always Saved...” The teaching that those who come to faith in Christ Jesus, are *eternally saved*, that they can never be *lost* again.

As I have said each time, a very controversial subject among the various denominations... Many reject the idea of *eternal security*, teaching that far from being secure, our salvation can be lost at any time.

Which begs the question... Which is true?

The answer to that question is found in the answer to the 7 questions that Paul asks here in this section. In this section, Paul asks a series of questions, all of which point to the same answer, all leading to the same conclusion that he declares in verses 37~39...

<sup>37</sup>Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. <sup>38</sup>For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, <sup>39</sup>Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature... **NOTHING...shall be able to separate us** from the **love of God**, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

I can't emphasize enough, to notice what Paul declares we cannot be separated FROM!  
**NOTHING...shall be able to separate us** from the **love of God**, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Beloved...we who are “In Christ”...

Are no longer “The Objects of His Wrath” being His enemies...

But now we are “The Objects of His Affection” being His children...

The Judgment and wrath of God on our sin has been satisfied through Christ death on the cross! Thus, when we came to Christ, we entered into the “love of God.” No longer His enemies...but His children!

**Illus:** The best way to understand this truth, is to look at it using the Family analogy...

I have 2 children... On December 3<sup>rd</sup> 1998, Kara was born into the family...and I became her father.

On February 5<sup>th</sup> 2001, Matt was born into the family...and I became his father.

As a father, I now understand the love of a father, something impossible to understand unless you have children of your own. I've had nieces and nephews, cousins, etc...and I love them, but it doesn't even begin to compare to the love that I have for my children. There is no love like it on the earth.

It is a love that knows no limits...there's nothing I wouldn't do for my children...without hesitation, I would die for my children.

It's a love that is unconditional...no matter how they may act sometimes, and how upset they make me at times...I'd never cast them aside or turn my back on them. I will discipline them, I do get upset at them and correct the, but that is out of my love for them. My hope is, that they will do things and live in a way that I approve of...but either way, even though I disagree with it, I will love them to the day I die! My love for them will not be based on them living to a certain standard...

**Nothing or No one shall be able to separate them from my love...**

In April of 1991, by faith in Jesus Christ...I was born into the family of God. On that day, I entered an intimate relationship with God. I became his child, and He became my Father!

I have the same conviction as Paul, I too am persuaded...that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, <sup>39</sup>Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature...NOTHING...shall be able to separate me from the love of My Father in heaven...

The reason people struggle with the teaching of “*Eternal Security*”, is the fact that they do not look at it from a “*Father/Child*” relationship, but rather a “*man/God*”...

Looking at it from that perspective, helps us to understand why Paul was so confident in his security!  
The “basis” of his confidence, the “foundation” of his assurance, was the Love of the Father!

Nothing...shall be able to separate us from the **love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

★ Listen very closely... The claims that Paul makes here to eternal security, the reason Paul so confidently proclaims that nothing shall separate him from God...is not based on the teachings of men, a creed, a belief or any such thing... The SOURCE that Paul derives this declaration of Security...comes as a result of his careful analysis of the Cross...

The Cross speaks of God’s love... That’s what Paul means here when he says...

Nothing...shall be able to separate us from the **love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

**For God “so loved” the world, that He gave his only begotten son...**

There is no doubt in my mind, that as Paul is writing these words here, in this epistle to the Romans, there’s no doubt in my mind, his pen is moved as he “gazes” at the cross...

<sup>31</sup> **...If God be for us, who can be against us?** (Ro 5:6~10) While we were yet sinners, enemies... If the ONE, True, Living God really did send his son to die for us...then what or who do we have to fear?

<sup>32</sup> **He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?** If God was went so far, as to give his most precious possession for us, is there anything He wouldn’t do for us?

<sup>33</sup> **Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God’s elect?** <sup>34</sup> **Who is he that condemns?**  
Who will declare us guilty...who is going to punish us? Seeing that... It is God that justifies.

*In other words... God is the Judge! And Paul says...It is Christ that died...*

God Judged our sin in Christ! Christ took our guilt; God condemned our sin in Christ on that tree!  
Not only was he punished for us...he’s constantly pleading for us, constantly going to God on our behalf!

★ Can’t you hear the praise in Paul’s voice... It is Christ that died! Oh what a Savior!

(Vs 35) <sup>35</sup> **Who or what shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?**

All of which can be summed up in one word... **Suffering.**

...tribulation...(carries the idea of being squeezed, put under pressure)

...distress...(speaks of a narrow space, being hemmed in...)

...persecution...(speaks of suffering affliction)  
...what about famine...nakedness...(speaking to the lacking of essential things)  
...what about dangers or even death?

What about SUFFERINGS... Does that mean we aren't in the favor of God? Are those signs that God is not blessing us?

That's a good question, because that's exactly how many see it! Paul is speaking to those who see "God's Blessings" as a peaceful life, a life without hardships, a life of plenty... Most people look around at all the THINGS they have and say "God has sure blessed me!" That may be true if you're serving the God of THIS WORLD! Materialism, circumstances, etc...there's a danger of judging the blessings of God by those things...

(Vs 35)<sup>35</sup> Does tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword mean that God has forsaken us? Does it mean he doesn't care? Does it mean God is punishing us?

**Paul looks at the cross and says...absolutely not!**<sup>36</sup> ...it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

**T** Paul points to the scripture to verify what he is about to say... Psalms 44:22...and declares...  
Far from suggesting that we have "lost favor" with God...far from suggesting that God has removed His hand of provision and protection from our lives...far from suggesting any such thing...Suffering verifies that His Hand is on our lives!

As followers of Christ...we too shall suffer as he also suffered...The way of Christ is a hard, rough life... When you take up the cross and follow Jesus, by turning your back on the world, the world has turned its back on you!

(John 15) Jesus warned his disciples of this right before he was crucified...

<sup>18</sup>If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. <sup>19</sup>If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

In short... One either walks in the favor of this world (thus out of the favor of God...)  
Or.....He walks in the favor of God (thus out of the favor of this world...)

<sup>20</sup>Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also. <sup>21</sup>But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me.

Christ says this... "If you follow me...know this...it ain't going to be easy!" To follow me is a call to walk contrary to this world, to walk against the grain... If they persecuted me, they'll also persecute you...

**Write it down...**<sup>36</sup> ...it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

The cost of following Christ is high. Paul assured Timothy that "all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus WILL be persecuted!" Far from this "health, wealth & prosperity" gospel being proclaimed today, and I add, being welcomed with open arms... The gospel of Christ is a call to a life of suffering! We take up a cross and put to death the desires of the flesh, we walk against this world...and suffering is certain!

**T**: But praise God...something else is certain! The certainty that no matter WHO comes against me, no matter what I must go through...though the whole world, though Satan and all his angels come against me... Praise God...nothing shall separate me from the Love of God, which is in Christ Jesus my Lord!

Far from suggesting that we have “*lost favor*” with God...far from suggesting that God has removed His hand of provision and protection from our lives...far from suggesting any such thing...Suffering verifies that His Hand is on our lives!

Paul says...*Being “His disciples” ...we can expect to suffer much the same...*

<sup>35</sup>Who or what shall separate us from the love of Christ? *shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? <sup>36</sup>As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

Beloved... Isaiah, speaking of Our Lord, “*The Suffering Servant*” said...

<sup>7</sup>He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he opened not his mouth.

*But know this...* <sup>37</sup>Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

No doubt...Paul is alluding to the RESURRECTION...When Christ suffered and died on that tree, the whole world, along with Satan and his demons, thought they had WON THE VICTORY!

But not so... What they saw as the end, only starting the beginning! They had opened the door to the Kingdom of God for all of mankind!

<sup>38</sup>For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, <sup>39</sup>Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Beloved...we are safe and secure in Christ Jesus our Lord...