

## Reassurance

Romans 8:31-39

PW Emerson – 05/12/2019 – Ten:27 Ministries

### ASK

What in this world do you get reassurance from?

Romans 8:31-39

<sup>31</sup> What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? <sup>33</sup> Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup> Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. <sup>35</sup> Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? <sup>36</sup> As it is written:

“For your sake we face death all day long;  
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

<sup>37</sup> No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup> For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, <sup>39</sup> neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

When you are sick with the flu, who do you want taking care of you?

**MOM!**

Why?

Because mom knows what we like.

Mom knows how to bring us comfort and reassurance.

This piece from the apostle Paul is designed to bring us reassurance and comfort.

## I OPPOSITION IS IRRELEVANT

### Verse 31

What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

I know I've mentioned this particular verse in other sermons.  
The apostle Paul uses its concept in other letters and speeches.

Paul faced opposition everywhere

- Romans
- Philosophers
- Other Jewish leaders

BUT

Even if all of those were seeking out Paul at the same time to KILL him, as long as you are doing God's will, there is NO opposition that matters!

For Paul of all people to write this verse is very ironic.

- Before Jesus converted Paul to Christianity,

Paul was a Pharisee who was SEEKING OUT Christians to KILL THEM!

Paul saw Christians as a threat, as vermin that needed to be eradicated!

Now he is a leader in the Christian church.

If there are other people zealously trying to stomp out Christians, they will fail.

Jesus struck Paul on the road to Damascus and He will strike others, if necessary.

What about in our world today?

### ASK

Where in OUR lives/world do we see Christianity facing opposition?

- In schools
- At work
- In the media
- In the body politic
- ?

And through all of that, we need to remember that when we are doing God's will, no opposition ultimately matters!

Paul follows it up with an important reminder in verse 32:

He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

Paul is saying, look.

- God loves us **SO MUCH** that he sacrificed his son for us!

Don't you think he'd take care of other opposition too?

Just 3 chapters earlier in Romans 5:8, Paul says:

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Here Paul is saying that **WHATEVER** obstacles keep us from doing God's will just don't matter.

- Throughout the bible, we see God confronting ANY excuses we make up that keep us from serving him.

God will take care of ANY obstacle that is in our way!

## II GOD'S LOVE BREAKS THROUGH ALL

Verse 35

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?

I find it extremely interesting the way Paul *WORDS* this.

He makes his point in the form of a question. Alex Trebec would be proud.

He could have said

NOTHING can separate us from God's love.

And people would have thought, "SURELY" and moved on.

BUT in the form of a question

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?

Then he gives a few examples

Hardship

Famine

Danger

Knowing that the reader will think of possibilities from his/her own life/world

What in our world can separate us from God's love?

- Natural disasters?
- Politicians?
- Political correctness?
- The media?
- People with a horrible, angry temper?
- Violence?
- Laziness
- Apathy?
- Unemployment?
- Bad economy?
- Distractions?

In doing this, Paul is drawing us into what he feels about God's love – it conquers all!

Ephesians 3:17-19

<sup>17</sup> so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, <sup>18</sup> may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, <sup>19</sup> and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Paul wants us to be so filled with God's love that it is the first thing to come out of our lips.

**GOD'S LOVE BREAKS THROUGH ALL.**

Paul knew this personally

- He had been arrested
- He had been run out of towns
- His life had been threatened
- **GOD'S LOVE BREAKS THROUGH ALL.**

I may not have the best education in the world.

I don't have political influence.

I don't have large sums of money to take out commercials or get people on my side.

**GOD'S LOVE BREAKS THROUGH ALL.**

### III I SERVE AT THE PLEASURE OF THE LORD

Verse 36 is a quote from Psalm 44:22

“For your sake we face death all day long;  
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

I face opposition and it may be painful – but that’s ok when I am serving God.

People who work for the president in the White House

- LONG hours
- Reporters constantly trying to trip them up at every turn
- Opposition party keeping a close eye in hopes of getting them out of the white house
- Half of the country hating you at any moment

There are a LOT of reasons for a secretary or aid to leave the white house so they don’t have to put up with so much!

If you ask them why they put up with it, their response is:

I serve at the pleasure of the president.

That’s what they say, regardless of the party or administration.

It’s the same thing for Christians serving God.

- There are times when I feel like I’m banging my head against the wall.
- I get tired and frustrated.
- Sometimes I feel like I’m in the battle all alone.

So why do I put up with all the heartache and hassle?

I serve at the pleasure of the almighty.

That is what's being expressed in verse 36.

"For your sake we face death all day long;  
Most of don't really face death ... but we often face hardship.

## CONCLUSION

Hebrews 4:14-15

<sup>14</sup> Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. <sup>15</sup> For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.

Earlier I asked, what in this world gives you reassurance?

The reality is we are not in control of anything in this world.

- Mom & dad may get hit by a bus
- House & car can be quickly destroyed in a tornado
- So called "friends" can turn on us
- Our job can be here today and gone tomorrow
- 
-

BUT

GOD'S LOVE

- It will always be present
- NOTHING can drive a wedge between us!

Jesus didn't have to appear to his disciples after the resurrection.

But he did.

He knew they needed the reassurance and he gave it to them.

God seeks to give the same reassurance to you.

God loves you and is watching over you!