

Romans Chapter 8
Week 14, v. 35

Review the truths we learned in verses 31-34.

- God is for us, therefore no one can stand against us and prosper
- God will give us all things we need to glorify Him
- God is the one who justifies, therefore no one can bring a charge that will stand against His children
- Only God can condemn or declare someone righteous through His Son
- Christ Jesus died for our sins
- Christ Jesus was raised from the dead to give us eternal life
- Christ Jesus sits at the right hand of God in all power and authority
- Christ Jesus is our Advocate with the Father

Ro 8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

The Apostle Paul is again showing his confidence in the safety of God's children by proposing another question.

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? that love which was stronger than death; which led him, when we were his enemies, to die for us, to give us his Holy Spirit, to reconcile and unite us to himself, and make us joint-heirs with him to all the blessings of his Father's kingdom. Who or what can separate us from such love? Family Bible Notes

The answer to Romans 8:35 is found at the conclusion of the chapter:

Ro 8:38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Ps 103:17-18 But the lovingkindness of the LORD is from ***everlasting to everlasting*** on those who fear Him, And His righteousness to children's children, To those who keep His covenant, And who remember His precepts to do them.

Saints in Biblical times experienced numerous trials, afflictions and death in the name of Jesus. To a lesser degree, saints today will experience trouble because of their testimonies. In the future, saints during the Tribulation will be the focus of great persecution. Yet, no one and nothing can separate a child of God from the love of Christ. The seven conditions mentioned here are listed from a smaller impact to the worst – termination of physical life.

Not even

- **Tribulation** <thlipsis> pressure (literally or figuratively), affliction, anguish, burdens, trouble; grievous affliction, or distress of any kind; to compress, oppress, straiten, &c.; any thing by which a man is rendered miserable.
Tribulation definition: an annoying, frustrating or catastrophic event

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

- **Distress** <stenochoria> narrowness of room, calamity, anguish; a word of nearly the same import with the former [tribulation], but more intense in its signification. It signifies straitness, being hemmed in on every side, without the possibility of getting out or escaping; great anxiety and distress of mind, such as arises when a man does not know where to turn himself, or what to do for relief.
Distress definition: psychological suffering; a state of adversity, extreme physical pain

2Co 7:5 For even when we came into Macedonia our flesh had no rest, but we were afflicted on every side: conflicts without, fears within.

2Co 6:3-10 giving no cause for offense in anything, in order that the ministry be not discredited, but in everything commending ourselves as servants of God, in much endurance, in afflictions, in hardships, in distresses, in beatings, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in hunger, in purity, in knowledge, in patience, in kindness, in the Holy Spirit, in genuine love, in the word of truth, in the power of God; by the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and the left, by glory and dishonor, by evil report and good report; [regarded] as deceivers and yet true; as unknown yet well-known, as dying yet behold, we live; as punished yet not put to death, as sorrowful yet always

rejoicing, as poor yet making many rich, as having nothing yet possessing all things.

2Co 12:9-10 And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

- **Persecution** <diogmos> persecution; signifies such pursuing as an enemy uses in order to overtake the object of his malice, that he may destroy him. "the word properly signifies a driving from place to place; banishment is implied therein, if not chiefly intended" Matthew Poole's Commentary
Persecution definition: the act of persecuting especially on the basis of race or religion; antonyms – abuse, ill-treatment

Mt 10:23 "But whenever they persecute you in this city, flee to the next; for truly I say to you, you shall not finish [going through] the cities of Israel, until the Son of Man comes.

Mt 13:20-21 "And the one on whom seed was sown on the rocky places, this is the man who hears the word, and immediately receives it with joy; yet he has no [firm] root in himself, but is [only] temporary, and when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he falls away.

Ac 13:50 But the Jews aroused the devout women of prominence and the leading men of the city, and instigated a persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and drove them out of their district. (v.46-50)

2Th 1:3-4 We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brethren, as is [only] fitting, because your faith is greatly enlarged, and the love of each one of you toward one another grows [ever] greater; therefore, we ourselves speak proudly of you among the churches of God for your perseverance and faith in the midst of all your persecutions and afflictions which you endure.

- **Famine** <limos> the idea of destitution; a scarcity of food: dearth, hunger; the total want of bread, and all the necessities of life.
Famine definition: an acute insufficiency, a severe shortage of food resulting in violent hunger and starvation and death

Mt 24:6-7 "And you will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars; see that you are not frightened, for [those things] must take place, but [that] is not yet the end. "For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes.

- **Nakedness** <gumnotes> nudity (absolute or comparative):
nakedness
Nakedness definition: the state of being without clothing or covering of any kind
- **Peril** <kindunos> danger; a state of extreme and continued danger, perplexing and distressing with grievous forebodings and alarms; it excites anguish; because much evil is felt, and much more feared.
Peril definition: a source of danger; a state of danger involving risk

2Co 11:26 [I have been] on frequent journeys, in dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from [my] countrymen, dangers from the Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers on the sea, dangers among false brethren; [I have been] in labor and hardship, through many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure.

- **Sword** <machaira> a knife, dirk; figuratively, war, judicial punishment; slaughter; the total destruction of life, and especially beheading, and such like, done by the order of the civil magistrate; for the word is used in this epistle, Ro 13:4, to signify the authority and power which he has of judicially terminating life; i.e. of inflicting capital punishment.

Mt 10:34 "Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. [however, Jesus is called the Prince of Peace (Isa 9:6)– it is His Word – TRUTH – that causes division(Jer 23:29; 2 Cor 10:4-5)]

Heb 4:12 For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Heb 11:37 They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were put to death with the sword; they went about in sheepskins, in goatskins,

being destitute, afflicted, ill-treated ([men] of whom the world was not worthy), wandering in deserts and mountains and caves and holes in the ground.

Are you confident in God's protection and favor towards you?

Tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, peril or sword have all been tried. But did they divide the suffering ones from Jesus? Spurgeon Devotional Commentary

1Pe 4:12-14 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing; so that also at the revelation of His glory, you may rejoice with exultation. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.

1Pe 1:3-9 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to [obtain] an inheritance [which is] imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, that the proof of your faith, [being] more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ; and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls.

Jas 1:2-4 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have [its] perfect result, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

2Ti 1:8-12 Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, or of me His prisoner; but join with [me] in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God, who has saved us, and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity, but now has been revealed by the appearing

of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death, and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle and a teacher. For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.

We should expect problems arising from our faith but none more powerful than God's love for us.

Joh 10:27-30 "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and **they shall never perish**; and **no one shall snatch them out of My hand**. "My Father, who has given [them] to Me, is greater than all; and **no one is able to snatch [them] out of the Father's hand**. "I and the Father are one."

Application Questions

Read Romans Chapter 8. Make a list of truths you have learned as you read.

Should God's children expect everything to be smooth sailing? Why or why not? Look up John 16:33; 1 Peter 4:12-14

Read Psalm 103:17-18. What does it say about God?

What does it say about the responsibilities of God's children?

How are we to respond to afflictions that present themselves because of our faith and those that come up in general? Read 2 Corinthians 6:3-10, 12:9-10.

Read Matthew 13:20-21. Compare the response of a believer above with that of a non-believer.

Are you secure in God's protection? Read 1:3-9; James 1:2-4. According to these scriptures, how should you respond to trouble?

Read John 10:27-30. What promise is given to God's children?