

Romans Chapter 8
Week 16, v. 38-39

Ro 8:38-39 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.

Herein lies the conclusion of Paul's argument in favor of the security and safety of God's children.

First, Paul says he is convinced.

What does it mean to be convinced of something?

Convinced <peitho> to assent to evidence or authority, to rely by inward certainty, to agree, assure, believe, have confidence, trust.

Convinced: persuaded of; very sure; having a strong belief or conviction; confident, positive.

Are you convinced of God's love for you? What is the evidence that supports your conviction?

Paul has an unwavering certainty that nothing will separate him from God's love.

Not death -- <thanatos> literally or figuratively;

Death in no form can separate God's children from Him. Not the fear of death or the pain and suffering of death or even a particularly cruel death that was almost certain at that time such as in [Ro 8:36](#).

The English definition for death says departure from life; the permanent end of all life functions; the time when something ends; a final state. What is your response to this definition?

Not life -- <zoe> literally or figuratively;

How could life threaten to separate people from God? Is it possible to love life and the experiences of life more than God?

Not the problems or uncertainties of life listed in [Ro 8:35](#). Not the attractions or desires of life. Or perhaps the offer or hope of life in exchange for denouncing faith in Christ – a real possibility during times of persecution. [Daniel 3:16-17](#) – Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego; [Daniel 6:5-23](#)

[Ro 14:8](#) for if we live, we live for the Lord, or if we die, we die for the Lord; therefore whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.

[Php 1:21](#) For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

[1Th 5:9-10](#) For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, that whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with Him.

Not angels -- <aggelos> a messenger; especially an angel.

Not principalities -- <arche> power, principality, rule

Not powers -- <dunamis> forces (literally or figuratively), miraculous power, strength, violence

There are good angels and bad angels. The angels who are sent to minister to us would not try to separate us from God since that would contradict their purpose ([Heb 1:14](#)) so this must mean evil angels and powers as in [Mat 25:41](#) and [Eph 6:12](#). A general conclusion would be that God is greater than even the most powerful entities that exist anywhere. On principalities and powers, “by them understand earthly power, the great and mighty potentates of the world persecuting us for Christ, yet shall never be able to divorce us from him”. quote from WBNT

[Eph 1:21](#) [Christ is] far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age, but also in the one to come.

[1Pe 3:22](#) [Jesus Christ] who is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him.

Not things present -- <enistemi> to place on hand, impend

What sometimes happens when people go through difficult circumstances?
What does God say about the security of His children even during trials?

Not things to come -- <mello> the idea of expectation; to intend, be about to be, do, or suffer something especially in the sense of purpose, duty, probability

Can the fear of what might happen take our eyes off Jesus? How do we guard from this? What tools do we have to remind us of God's control?

Whatever we might endure now; whatever we might be called to endure. Also including what the world may be called to endure – nothing is so powerful to separate the love of God from His children.

Whatever has happened, whatever does happen, whatever might happen cannot take away the promise of eternal joy to a child of God.

2Ti 1:12 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.

2Ti 4:8 in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.

Not height -- <hupsoma> an elevated place or thing, by implication a barrier

Not depth -- <bathos> profundity, by implication extent; mystery, deepness

Daniel 5:18-23 (King Nebuchadnezzar and Belchazzar)

Isa 24:21 So it will happen in that day, That the LORD will punish the host of heaven, on high, And the kings of the earth, on earth.

2Co 10:5 [We are] destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and [we are] taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,

Neither wealth nor poverty, honor or dishonor, high rank or no rank, there is no circumstance that a child of God could be placed that would separate them from His love. "The tendency of these things to alienate the mind, to engross the affections, and to occupy the time, all know; but the apostle says that even these would not be sufficient to withdraw their strong love from the Lord Jesus Christ." Quote: Albert Barnes' NT Commentary

Nor height, nor depth; i.e. neither the height of honour and worldly advancement, nor the depth of disgrace and worldly abasement. Matthew Poole's Commentary

Php 4:12 I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need.

Not any other created thing -- <ktisis> building, creation, creature, ordinance

No structure, no existence, no authority. No thing, no one in the entire universe. Just in case there is anything that might be excluded in our imagination, Paul puts those thoughts to rest quickly and completely.

The apostle began with No condemnation and he ends with No separation, filling up the space between with priceless covenant blessings. No chapter in the Bible is more crowded with sublime and consoling teaching. Lord, grant us to know and enjoy all the inestimable privileges which it reveals. Spurgeon Devotional Commentary

We are blessed as God's children! There is no condemnation because of Christ Jesus and there is no separation from the safety of His care and love.