

Impossibilities for the Believer – Part 2

Romans 8:35-39

November 12, 2020

John 10:27–30 “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and **no one will 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.”

Review

8:18-39 Assurance of hope

- 18-25 Suffering with Christ in the present age is nothing in comparison to the future glorious revealing of the sons of God, that will be accompanied by the liberation of the creation from its bondage to corruption. Like the creation we groan in the pains of childbirth, as we wait eagerly for the redemption of our bodies. We were given this hope when we were saved, and we wait for it with perseverance.
- 26-27 The Spirit helps us, who do not know what to pray for, by interceding for us according to the will of God.
- 28 God causes all things to work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose.
- 29-30 Those whom God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son. And those whom He predestined He also called, and those whom He called He also justified, and those whom He justified He most certainly will glorify.
- 31-34 What God has done, and has determined to do, in our salvation, reveals that He is for us. Consequently, no enemy can keep us from receiving all the blessings God has purposed to give us. Because God has done the ultimate in sacrificing His own Son in our place, we can trust Him to give us all things pertaining to the completion of our salvation. No one can bring a charge that will jeopardize the believer’s right standing before God, for it is God who justifies. No one can condemn God’s elect unto judgment in eternity, for the Judge is the One who died for us, was raised for us, is in the position of highest authority, and is interceding for us.

Verses 31-39 declare five great truths that flow out of all that has been taught in Romans about salvation, in order that we would exult in God’s salvation.

1. The impossibility of anyone being against us (31)
2. The impossibility that God would not give us all things (32)

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Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version (ESV).

3. The impossibility of anyone bringing a charge against us (33)
4. The impossibility of anyone condemning us (34)
5. The impossibility of anyone separating the believer from the love of Christ (35-39)

Question: Why do we as Christians need to hear the truths in verses 35-39 frequently?

The impossibility of anything separating us from the love of Christ (35)

The implied answer is made explicit in vv 38-39

- Nothing will ever be able separate us as believers from the love of Christ

Question: Describe what verse 35 calls, "the love of Christ," and what verse 39 calls, "the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Consider the list in verse 35. There is nothing that can jeopardize our relationship with Christ, because Christ's love holds us fast!

“tribulation”

“distress”

“persecution”

“famine”

“nakedness”

“danger”

“sword”

Speaks of the power and permanence of the love of Christ for those whom He has purchased with His precious blood and brought into His Father's family

The reality of suffering as God's people (36)

Shows from the Scriptures that God's people should expect to suffer the sorts of things listed in verse 35.

Quotes Psalm 44:22

Paul is teaching that in God’s design, and for God’s purposes, Christians will suffer

The assurance that through Christ we will more than conquer (37)

NASB “But”

1. More literal
2. God’s people suffer; BUT that is not the whole story.

“are more than conquerors”

1. Compound verb that means “super conquer”
2. NASB “overwhelmingly conquer”
3. NET “have complete victory”
4. The verb “to conquer” is a significant word in Revelation
 - NASB “to overcome”
5. Present tense

“in all these things” we overwhelmingly conquer

1. By coming out of the troubles stronger than when they first threatened us
 - **8:28-29**
 - **Rom. 5:3–5** “...we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.”
 - Instead of our suffering separating us from Christ, it brings us closer to Him
2. Because our eternal reward will far surpass the earthly and temporal losses we suffer
 - **8:17**

“through him who loved us.”

1. The One who showed the depths of His love at the cross
2. Through His power

The certainty that nothing can separate us from the love of God (38-39)

38 “For I am sure”

- Permanent, rock-solid certainty, based on God’s sure revelation and unchanging nature

39 "...will be able to separate us..."

- Not simply that nothing will separate us

39 "...the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

- To be held fast by the love of Christ (35) is to also be held fast by the love of the Father

Extremely emphatic that nothing at all can separate us from the love of God

38 "nor angels nor rulers"

- NIV "neither angels nor demons"

Rather than being afraid of these things, we are to be assured of God's love which is far stronger

The believer is eternally secure in the great love of God

The believer's perseverance is not what keeps his salvation safe. Perseverance shows we have a Savior who is preserving us, whose love keeps us safe.

Conclusion

The believers in Rome would need to hold fast to these verses in faith

The Bible is clear that evil will increase until Christ returns

- **2 Tim. 3:13** evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse,
- **Matt. 24:7-13** For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are but the beginning of the birth pains. Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake. And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. And because **lawlessness will be increased**, the love of many will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

As this happens, we need to hold fast in faith to the verses we have studied

We need not fear

As you live for the Lord...

1. How much do you focus on the things listed in our passage that appear to threaten us?
2. How much do you focus on the love of God and the love of Christ that holds you?

It is the love of our gracious Heavenly Father, and the love of our wonderful Savior that truly calls for our full attention, and for our utmost praise!