

My Jesus #8 – The Love Of Christ

Romans 8:35-39

Our journey this series began with Paul in Romans 7.

In the depths of frustration and desperation, Paul cried out, ***“O wretched man that I am... Who shall deliver me?”***

The immediate answer was the obvious answer: Jesus Christ Our Lord. He is of course, our deliverer. Our Savior.

But rather than God just **helping Paul acknowledge the correct answer, suck it up and move on, God met him there.** He led Paul to discover, and then to record, how Jesus is not only the ultimate answer but the answer in every real circumstance of life.

The road of Discovery we’ve traveled learning about My Jesus...

- Despite our feelings and even the facts of our circumstances, **we will never be condemned again.**
- Jesus - God Himself in all of His power – works in us **to enable us to live free in Him rather than in bondage to our flesh and selfishness.**
- Jesus – **whispers to our spirits, leading us, reminding us that we are His kids forever.**
- He reminds us that **beyond the struggles of life, the groanings within and around, there is hope!** We wait expectantly!
- He helps in our **weakest moments, interceding** on our behalf with **groans which even words can’t express** expressed to the very heart of God.
- Then, God peeled back the curtain of eternity and gave us a peek beyond our reality, and a promise – He is beyond **all things working them together with divine energy to produce good** in and for me.
- He provided us eternal references proving Himself and reminding us we can trust Him in every moment, with everything.

So, what else could we possibly need?

Even with all My Jesus does in every situation, in every moment, there is still one more revelation. **The climax of it all. Perhaps what we need most.**

Paul, just a few months before, had written of the great gifts God has given us – “**Faith, hope, and love**”, but as he acknowledged to the Corinthian believers, “**the greatest of these is love!**”. (1 Cor. 13:12)

Now, **God closes the case for Christ – My Jesus – with...**

- **The love of Christ** – vs. 35
- **The love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord** – vs. 39

As children, many of us sang, “*Jesus love me, this I know...*”

As God’s children, even though we may appear big and tough and all together and in control - **God wants us to know – Jesus loves me!**

There will be darkness and doubt, even desperation in every life. God wants us to know **that all of the time, in the good and bad, in every situation - Jesus loves me!**

There are people sitting here today **who know**

- Verses.
- Theology and doctrines.
- Church.

But not God’s presence. Not God’s love. Somewhere along the journey they quietly became convinced that God merely tolerates them.

- That He loves *the faithful version* of them.
- The *successful version*.
- The *cleaned-up version*.
- The *victorious version*.

But not this version.

- Not today.
- Not after what happened.
- Not after what was said.
- Not after...

Romans 8 ends with the message that we all need:

Jesus loves YOU. Now. Where you are. As you are. Who you are.

The love of Christ is the ultimate reality.

We begin with...

I. The Challenge. Vs. 35-37

The **last question in the series** of Divine Q&A from the God who has promised us He always works all things for our good!

“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?”

A. The possibility probed

“Who?” – *Where does our condemnation , skepticism, doubt come from?*

- Ourselves? We are often our worst judge.
- Others? *Parents? Spouses? Loved ones? Friends?*
- The demons destined for hell and destroying everyone they can on their way?
- Satan – the accuser and liar?

Do you remember Dr Suess’ *Horton Hears A Who?*

Paul asks, ***“Who is our who?”***

When our focus gets stuck on any other these, it fails to rest on the only one that matters!

“shall separate us...”: ***“separate”*** – most of the times translated ***“depart”***. ***To tear asunder and leave, desert...***

B. The problems pondered

1. The love of God doesn’t cancel out the problems of life.

It didn’t for Him!

He came and endured every aspect of life, suffered just as we do,
One day He will make all things right. Until then, He is with us, loving us, helping **us be right in all things.**

It doesn’t for us.

He told us that we would have difficulties. That there would be struggles on the inside and storms on the outside.

He comes to us in them –
Comforting us
Guiding us
Building us
Using us

2. The list – Rhetorical questions.

These are biggies.

They each assault us and do their best to make us feel like He has forgotten us... doesn't love us...

"After all" says the whisper from the dark, "If He loved us then _____ wouldn't be happening, right?!"

The previous verses provide the proof! He does loves us. Period. But beyond the facts, the proof of what He has done, **He stays. He loves.**

The list of real-life giants. If anything could - How about...

- Tribulation? – *"a pressing, pressure"*. Answer with me – **No!**
- Distress? – **No!**
- Persecution? – **No!**
- Famine? – *"Famine. Destitution."* **No!**
- Nakedness? – Uh... **No!**
- Peril? – **No!**
- Sword? – **No!**

Vs. 36 – The Historical and Biblical Reality - God's people have and will suffer!

C. Love's answer: vs. 37- Another explanation of why these answers are so sure!

"MORE THAN conquerors" – What does that mean?

"through Him that loved us" – His victory is ours! He fought and won, and we win in Him!

II. The Conviction (Paul's Persuasion). Vs. 38-39

A. "I am persuaded" – absolutely convinced.

Paul isn't giving an opinion. Years of scars are speaking.

Shipwrecks. Gossip and accusations. Desertion. Beatings.
Prison. Loneliness.

Now: "I am persuaded" –

Not because life is easy. Because Christ has been faithful.

B. The gauntlet of perilous possibilities:

Paul turns to focus on even bigger giants.

Not the ones we face as we live our lives as those he's already addressed,
but the giants in our minds.

Ever let your imagination run away...?

"What if..."

Don't! It's fruitless and destructive!!

Instead of the list of touchable, definable problems which are real, many of which we have faced... Paul now turns to the darkness - our insecurities, imaginations and deepest fears

- **"death"** –
Satan screams- **fear it!**
Jesus said, **"I defeated it!"**
Paul said, "Just on the other side – we will be present with the Lord, fully alive forever. He even went as far as to mock death – looking back from life beyond its touch – **"Oh death- where is thy sting? O grave- where is thy victory?!"**
- **"life"**. Now that worries me more. As long as we live every second brings to us the unknown... Limitless ways to fail... "What if...?" -
- **"angels"** -
- **"principalities"** - "First", Source or beginning", "ruler"
- **"powers"** – "Dunamis"- Might power, ability"

- **“things present”** - The sum total of the stuff in my life up until this moment. It is huge. Almost suffocating.
- **“things to come”** – Oh my. That did it. What about....? The past present and future team up on us and stifle us – until the one who holds time in His hand speaks, and the winds of time fade...
- **“Nor...”** - If we’ve left anything out throw it in here: **“height, depth, anything in creation!”**

III. The Conclusion Vs. 39b

- **“shall be able”**- “Be able, have the power”.
- **“Separate us from”** – Same word as vs. 35!
- **“The love of God”**
- **“which is in Christ Jesus our Lord”** – My Jesus!

Before a newborn can begin to hear and comprehend words, he can, and needs, to know that he is loved. It sets the stage for everything to come. It makes everything else ok.

God knew Paul, and we, need to know we are loved. Always.

You are loved.

- Not when you finally arrive.
- Not when you finally mature.
- Not when you finally conquer every weakness.

Now.

In My Jesus, always abiding, guiding, loving.