

when in

ROME

WEEK 16 | ROM. 8:18-39

"Let us remember the drama of its delivery: read out loud, chapter after chapter, it is an ever-growing wave that swept its addressees from the first warning of God's wrath to the final offer of hope. Paul sets out not just to describe his gospel, to ground or defend it, but to make it effective, within the letter itself, as God's power at work on his listeners as they hear. We had been looking for exposition; we are being summoned to transformation."

– **Robin Griffith-Jones**, *The Gospel According to Paul* (2004)

The Big Picture

³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ³³ Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died -- more than that, who was raised -- who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered."

----- **Romans 8: 31-36**

Awake! **Why are you sleeping, O Lord?** Rouse yourself! Do not reject us forever! Why do you hide your face? Why do you forget our affliction and oppression? For our soul is bowed down to the dust; our belly clings to the ground. Rise up; come to our help! Redeem us for the sake of your steadfast love!

Psalm 44:23-26

More Than Conquerors

³⁷ No, in all these things we are **more than conquerors through him who loved us.** ³⁸ For I am **sure** that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

----- **Romans 8: 37-39**

So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

"Many people seem to think that Christianity is a persuasion that things are going to get steadily better. They believe that as Christianity is preached...trials and troubles will come to an end, and no people will be 'led as sheep to the slaughter.' This is not the Apostle's teaching. What he is interested in is that nothing shall be able to separate him 'from the love of God which is Christ Jesus our Lord'; that is his only concern."

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