Sermon Highlights

More Than Conquerors: The Security of the Believer in Christ

Summary:

Drawing from Romans 8:26-39, this sermon explores the comprehensive care God provides for believers through the Holy Spirit, divine sovereignty, and the unbreakable love of Christ. Pastor Bruce Gordon walks through Paul's argument that believers are never alone in their weakness, as the Holy Spirit intercedes on their behalf with a depth of understanding that transcends human language. The sermon addresses the tension between divine sovereignty and human free will, acknowledging that both truths coexist without contradiction. Paul's chain of salvation -- foreknowledge, predestination, calling, justification, and glorification -- is presented as the bedrock of a believer's security. The sermon concludes with the triumphant declaration that nothing in all creation can separate a believer from the love of God in Christ Jesus, and that those who are saved are not merely conquerors but more than conquerors through him who loved them.

Key Points:

- The Holy Spirit intercedes for believers in their weakness, groaning on their behalf before God in a manner that mirrors the groaning of creation and the groaning of believers themselves

- God answers prayer not according to our fleshly desires but according to the true intent of the heart, which the Holy Spirit knows and communicates to the Father

- Romans 8:28 is not a universal promise to all people but a specific assurance to those who love God and are called according to his purpose

- The doctrine of predestination does not eliminate human responsibility; both divine sovereignty and human free will are simultaneously true, and attempting to force them into contradiction leads to theological confusion

- Paul's five-step chain in Romans 8:29-30 -- foreknowledge, predestination, calling, justification, and glorification -- describes God's complete and unbroken work of salvation in the life of a believer

- No created thing, whether tribulation, persecution, famine, death, life, angels, principalities, or any future development including modern technologies, can separate a believer from the love of God

- Believers are not simply conquerors over life's hardships but more than conquerors, as illustrated by Paul and Silas singing in prison after being beaten

Scripture Reference:

- Romans 8:26-39, with supporting references to Ephesians 6 regarding principalities and powers, and Psalms regarding being counted as sheep for slaughter

Stories:

- Joseph and his brothers: Joseph, sold into slavery by his brothers and taken to Egypt, could not have seen God's purpose in his suffering at the time, yet later declared to his brothers that what they intended for evil, God intended for good, illustrating how God works all things together for the benefit of those who belong to him

- Paul and Silas in the Philippian jail: After being beaten and imprisoned, Paul and Silas did not merely endure their circumstances with quiet hope but actively sang and praised God, demonstrating what it means to be more than conquerors

- The early fears about railroad travel: When trains were first introduced, people genuinely debated whether the human body could survive speeds of 30 miles per hour, illustrating how believers often worry about threats that fall entirely within God's sovereign control