

HIS LOVE TRIUMPHANT IN US

Part 22 Romans Chapter Eight

Introduction: We have faithfully followed on in the Romans series from one Sunday to another without deviating or changing direction. So as we come to our message today, I am amazed at how relevant our message is, and how it relates to our current situation without us having planned it. You will see how this Scripture today, which is the next in the context of this teaching, applies to what is going on around us with this global pandemic. One might be inclined to think God had sovereignly arranged it. Let's read it ...

Romans 8:35-39 **SLIDE**

*Who shall separate us from **the love of Christ**? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." ³⁷Yet in all these things **we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us**. ³⁸ For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, ³⁹ 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**.*

SLIDE

NB: Verse 35 lays out 7 forms of trouble, all of which are significant to us here today. They are -

Tribulation = Physical Trauma

Distress = Emotional trauma

Persecution = Social Trauma

Famine = Financial Trauma

Nakedness = Moral Trauma

Peril = Mental Trauma

Sword = Survival Trauma

However, none of these traumas can in any way rob us of 'The Love of Christ' but do in fact actually cause 'This Love' to rise to the occasion in triumphant glory. God is telling us He understands our traumas ... He is well aware of how these things affect us and He has made every provision for us during these times of trial and tribulation. But it doesn't stop there, God will in fact enable us to rise to a level of faith where we know we are 'More Than Conquerors'. (v 37)

The first two Traumas are very relevant to us today as we travel through this pandemic - 'The Love of Christ' being the sustaining force in and through them all.

These 2 traumas are Tribulation and Distress.

SLIDE

- **TRIBULATION ... (thlipsis) EVERYDAY TROUBLE ... AFFLICTION ... WHICH INCLUDES ALL SICKNESS ...** So whether we are threatened by the possibility of sickness or if we have already been afflicted with COVID-19 or any other sickness,

we know this CANNOT in any way rob us of 'The Love of Christ' FOR US ... but we will actually get stronger in 'This Love' and rise in triumphant glory.

NB: Tribulation can open the door to distress as we are currently experiencing with the excessive bombardment of media (mainstream and social) regarding this pandemic-crisis.

SLIDE

- **DISTRESS ...** The threat of COVID-19 causes distress, anxiety and fear in people as we can already see in this irrational panic buying. It's interesting the word for 'distress' (*stenochōria*) From **stenos & chora** means... narrowness of room ... a constricted space ... THAT FEELING OF BEING CUT OFF ... WHICH IN TURN CAN CREATE LONELINESS & BRING ON DEPRESSION ... AS THOUGH THE WHOLE WORLD IS CLOSING IN ON YOU ... AND YOU ARE TRAPPED ... UNABLE TO GET OUT.

An Indian father of 3, committed suicide after he thought he'd contracted COVID-19 and didn't want to infect his family ...

THE DOMINO EFFECT

So it is with most of these traumas; they have a domino effect where one trauma brings on another. For example, sickness can bring on anxiety, worry, fear and depression which in turn can render us incapacitated and unable to work to survive and therefore bring about poverty.

- **FEAR OF FAMINE ...** (*limos*) a scarcity of food ... survival ...
I saw a show where people in drought on a farm were anxiously scraping for scraps to survive.
But then an old Indian knocked at the door and the woman gave him a jar of leftovers. She said, no matter how hard it is ... there's always someone worse off than you.
- **FEAR OF PERIL ...** (*kindynos*) peril, risk ... UNCERTAINTY ... IMPENDING DOOM!
FEAR OF THE FUTURE

BUT FOR THE BORN AGAIN BELIEVER AS WE ABIDE IN THE LOVE OF GOD FOR US, we will stay free from all fear and anxiety and actually triumph in Christ's Love.

SO, HOW CAN THIS GREAT LOVE OF GOD SUSTAIN US THROUGH THESE TRAUMATIC TIMES & CAUSE US TO TRIUMPH?

FIRSTLY WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND ...

THIS IS IS NOT OUR LOVE FOR GOD, BUT THE LOVE OF GOD IN CHRIST FOR US

Romans 8:37 **SLIDE**

... *We are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.*

This is God's unwavering, strong love for us that is the basis of our faith and trust.

Our text today is one of the most quoted verses of the Bible, often quoted to bring ultimate assurance to struggling souls ... 'If you believe nothing else, believe this ... God loves you despite your circumstances and failure.'

KNOWING GOD LOVES & CARES FOR YOU IN EVERY SITUATION ... WHETHER YOU STAND OR FALL ... WHETHER YOU UNDERSTAND OR NOT ... THIS IS THE START OF US OVERCOMING. WE ARE ASSURED HIS LOVE FOR US IS CONSTANT.

NB: In verses 38 & 39 Paul says, 'I am persuaded ...' of God's unwavering love for us in Christ Jesus.

THIS IS A WONDERFUL CONSOLATION & CONFIRMATION THAT GOD REALLY DOES LOVE US ... DESPITE CIRCUMSTANCES ... A CONSTANT ASSURANCE THAT HE STILL LOVES US.

BUT IF THIS IS WHERE IT ENDS ... WE WILL NEED TO BE REMINDED OF IT EVERY DAY LIKE THE WIFE WHO ALWAYS NEEDS HER HUSBAND TO TELL HER THAT HE LOVES HER. HE SAYS, 'BUT YOU KNOW I LOVE YOU ...' 'YES', SHE SAYS, 'BUT I NEED TO HEAR IT EVERY DAY'.

THERE IS HOWEVER ... SOMETHING FAR MORE SUSTAINING HERE ABOUT THIS LOVE

SLIDE **GREATER THAN KNOWING GOD LOVES ME IS KNOWING GOD'S LOVE**

THROUGHOUT THE SCRIPTURES, GOD'S LOVE IS **SHOWN** ... BUT TO THE BORN AGAIN CHRISTIAN GOD'S LOVE CAN BE **KNOWN** ... WE CAN KNOW GOD'S LOVE.

Ephesians 3:17-19 **SLIDE**

*That Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, **[already] being rooted and grounded in love,**¹⁸ may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—¹⁹ (Berean Literal Bible) **and to know the love of Christ** surpassing knowledge, so that you may be filled unto all the fullness of God.*

NB: We already are rooted and grounded in Love ... It's not something we have to become.

WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN A NEW HEART THAT CAN KNOW & HAS A PROPENSITY TO KNOW THE LOVE GOD HAS TO US

IT IS NOT KNOWING ABOUT, AS IN KNOWLEDGE ... BECAUSE IT PASSES KNOWLEDGE ...

THIS IS A HEART EXPERIENCE ...

THIS **IS KNOWING THE ESSENCE OF HIS LOVE BY EXPERIENCE.**

IT'S MEETING IT ... IT'S EMBRACING IT ... IT'S SURRENDERING INTO IT ...

IT'S THE GREATEST ESSENCE IN ALL ETERNITY ... IT IS THE SUBSTANCE OF GOD HIMSELF & **THIS HAS BEEN IMPARTED INTO YOU WHEN YOU WERE BORN AGAIN.**

GOD ASSURES US ...

**SLIDE WE WILL TRIUMPH IN CHRIST'S LOVE, BECAUSE WE ARE IRREVERSIBLY
CONNECTED TO IT FOR ALL TIME & ALL ETERNITY**

Romans 8:35 **SLIDE**

*Who shall **separate us** from the love of Christ? ...*

Romans 8:39

*... [Nothing] shall be able to **separate us** from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

NB: We are not told, '**Who can stop God loving us?**' which is how we tend to read it ... But we are told, '**Who can separate us from this love?**'

Logic tells us, before something can be separated from something, it must first be connected to it. THIS MEANS, WE ARE CONNECTED TO THE LOVE OF GOD.

'shall separate' (chōrisei) from chora; to place room between, i.e. part, to go away from.

'To separate' ourselves from God's love assumes we are joined to God's love in the first place.

OUR FACEBOOK POST READ ...

***AS BELIEVERS, WE ARE NOT ONLY CALLED TO BELIEVE IN GOD'S LOVE FOR US
... WE ARE CHOSEN TO RECEIVED GOD'S LOVE IN US***

We already saw this truth about us being connected to God's love in ...

Romans 5:5 Berean Literal Bible **SLIDE**

... The love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit ...

1 John 4:16 Berean Study Bible **SLIDE**

*And we have come to know and believe **the love that God has ~~for~~ in us**. God is love; whoever abides in love abides in God, and God in him.*

HE LOVED US

It's also interesting that here and other places when God wants to assure us of His love, He doesn't speak in the present tense as in 'God loves you', but in the aorist / completed tense as in, 'God loved you'.

Romans 8:37

*Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through **Him who loved us.***

IT'S SOMETHING THAT IS ESTABLISHED AND REMAINS

loved (us) (agapēsantos) Verb - Aorist Participle Active

YOU ONLY NEED TO BE LOVED BY GOD ONCE & YOU ARE ESTABLISHED IN THAT LOVE FOREVER.

THIS IS EXPERIENCING A PLACE WHERE ALL ELSE BEGINS TO FADE

IT IS A DEEP, WONDERFUL & OVERWHELMING EXPERIENCE THAT SURPASSES ALL CIRCUMSTANCE & SITUATION ...

WE SING, 'HERE IN THIS PLACE, IN YOUR EMBRACE, WHERE ALL ELSE JUST FADES AWAY'.

THIS IS IT ... HERE WE ARE SETTLED ... CONSTRAINED ... OVERWHELMED ...

ABSORBED INTO THIS ESSENCE ... WHERE ALL ELSE FADES INTO THE BACKGROUND.

WHO SHALL SEPARATE US FROM THIS LOVE?

SHALL TRIBULATION? - BUT IN THE FACE OF LOVE, IT STARTS TO FADE ...

SHALL DISTRESS? - IT ALSO STARTS TO FADE ...

This means no fear can rob us of His Love in us.

THIS LOVE CASTS OUT ALL FEAR

WE CAN NEVER FEAR AS WE ABIDE IN HIS LOVE

1 John 4:18 Berean Literal Bible **SLIDE**

There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear, because fear has punishment; and the one fearing has not been perfected in love.

1 John 2:5 Berean Literal Bible

*But whoever may keep His word, truly in him the love of God **has been perfected.** By this we know that we are [abiding] in Him*

NB: 'The Love of God' has already been perfected in the person before they keep His word.

I used to think, I have to 'keep His word' for God's love to be perfected in me. Once again it's a 'work' to try and achieve something, but we should read this verse: '**The one in whom the love of God has been perfected keeps His word**', or '**Whoever has the love of God perfected in them keeps His word ...**'

It's the perfect love of God and love for God in us that causes us to want to keep His word. It's not keeping His word that perfects love in us.

WE NOW HAVE A CHOICE TO DWELL IN HIS LOVE IN US

John 15:9 **SLIDE**

*As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; **abide in My love.***

When trials come ... abide in my love ...
When sorrow comes ... abide in my love ...
When Satan attacks ... abide in my love ...

Jude 1:21 NAS'77

Keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life.

Not only can this love in you never be defeated ... it actually brings Good!

GOD ASSURES US ... **SLIDE**

WE WILL TRIUMPH BECAUSE CHRIST'S LOVE HAS ALREADY
CONQUERED ALL ENEMIES PHYSICAL ... SOCIAL ... FINACIAL ...
SPIRITUAL ... EMOTIONAL ... MENTAL ...

Romans 8:38-39 **SLIDE**

*For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, ³⁹ 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.***

Jesus has already conquered all our enemies as are listed here
Death / Life / Angels / Things Present & Future / Height & Depth

DEATH **SLIDE**

1 Corinthians 15:54-55

... "Death is swallowed up in victory." ⁵⁵"O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?"

LIFE

John 16:33

These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

ANGELS, PRINCIPALITIES & POWERS & THINGS PRESENT OR FUTURE

Ephesians 1:20-21

He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.

Hebrews 10:12

But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God,

HEIGHT OR DEPTH

Ephesians 4:9

Now this, "He ascended" —what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth?

There's no depth that you could descend to that Jesus has not already experience ... no giddy heights that He has not transcended.

THIS LOVE IS INDESTRUCTABLE

Song of Solomon 8:6-7

(She says) Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm; for love is as strong as death, jealousy as cruel as the grave; its flames are flames of fire, a most vehement flame. ⁷ Many waters cannot quench love, nor can the floods drown it. If a man would give for love all the wealth of his house, it would be utterly despised.

SUPPLIMENTAL

GOD ASSURES US ...

WE WILL TRIUMPH BECAUSE OF THE SUPERIOR CHARACTER OF CHRIST'S

LOVE

THIS LOVE OF GOD IS FAR MORE THAN ROMANTIC LOVE ... OR LOVE OF FAMILY & FRIENDS.

THIS LOVE NEVER WAVERS OR FAULTERS ... IT CANNOT (1 Corinthians 13:8 – *Love never fails ...*)

THIS LOVE, DOESN'T NEED THE OBJECT OF IT'S LOVE TO LOVE IT BACK ...

THIS LOVE DOESN'T NEED THE OBJECT OF ITS LOVE TO BEHAVE RIGHT ... IT LOVES BECAUSE IT IS LOVE.

LOOK AT WHAT THIS LOVE HAS ACHIEVED FOR US

Ephesians 2:4-7

But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

THIS LOVE WAS GOD'S MOTIVATION AT THE BEGINNING AND IS NOW HIS GIFT TO US AT THE END.

THIS LOVE DOESN'T SEE THE BEAUTY OR UGLINESS OF ITS OBJECT ... IT LOVES THE UNLOVELY ...

THIS LOVE IS SELF-SACRIFICING TO THE POINT OF DEATH. Jesus described it in saying, *GREATER LOVE HAS NO MAN THAN TO LAY HIS LIFE DOWN FOR HIS FRIENDS (from John 15:13)*

CHRIST DEMONSTRATED IT ON THE CROSS ...

THIS LOVE IS MORE THAN A FEELING ... IT IS AN ESSENCE ... MORE THAN EMOTION ... IT IS A SPIRITUAL DISPOSITION ...

YES, GOD TELLS US THAT HE LOVES US ... BUT THIS IS MUCH MORE! -

THIS INVOLVES 'US' ...

THE LOVE OF GOD IN US DOESN'T JUST SURVIVE IN TIMES OF TRIAL ... THE LOVE OF GOD IN US THRIVES IN TIMES OF TRIAL.