

8/24/18

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:35-39

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? The Bible tells us that Jesus Christ is truly and fully God. So, who is going to get in his way? Who or what can stand in the way of the Almighty? The answer seems obvious: nothing.

But in our sinful weakness, we can be convinced otherwise. God's Word tells us plainly that believers in Jesus are given no guarantees of an easy life. Jesus told his disciples, "In this world you will have trouble..." (John 16:33). We face hardship. Burdens weigh heavily on us. We live through times of want. Sometimes believers are hated, mistreated and worse, simply because they are believers in Jesus. Every day we face danger in body and soul. When those troubles press down on us, we are tempted to wonder, "Does God really love me? Is he truly there for me?"

Into the darkness of those doubts, the apostle Paul shines the brilliant light of God's assuring Word. The answer to those questions of doubt is a resounding "YES!" God

does care for you. Yes, he is there for you. Nothing can separate you from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. The Son of God gave his life on a cross for you. He rose again to give you eternal life. Those are accomplished facts which cannot be undone or nullified. No trouble, no force, no period of time, no space, nothing in all of creation can stand in the way of God's love for you.

A wise Christian once said, "When you doubt God's love for you, read the end of Romans chapter 8. When you get done, read it again. And when you get done again, read it yet again." Nothing in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Nothing.

***Prayer:** Precious Savior, forgive me for doubting your love at difficult times in my life. Remind me again and again of your great love for me, that you died and rose to make me yours forever. Assure me daily that nothing can take that wonderful truth away. Amen.*

(WELS E-Devotion, adapted)

...See you in worship.

Keep looking up because the Lord is always looking down – Psalm 121

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