

(Romans 8:35-39, NIV84)

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.

A friend was recently telling me about the house where his mother grew up.

It was a three bedroom home with one bathroom, for her, her parents and her eight siblings; four boys in one bedroom, five girls in another and their parents in another. How do you practice social distancing in that environment?

We've been told to keep separate from our family members, friends, neighbors and co-workers. This is distressing to us and keeps us away from the people we love most. But there is another kind of separation that occurred in our lives: the separation between us and God, caused by sin. The prophet Isaiah wrote about it: "But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear" (Isaiah 59:2).

Thankfully Jesus Christ our Savior took our sins and iniquities to the cross, and by His blood redeemed us -- tearing down the wall of separation that stood between us and God. We are now reconciled to God and members of God's household. Now nothing can separate us from Him, not government mandates, not quarantines, not even our own sinful failures and shortcomings -- nothing! We belong to Him and that will never change.

Reconciled to God with you in Christ,
Pastor Golm

April 3

There's Room Enough

In my Father's house are many mansions. John 14:2

In order to grasp the full significance of these words of our Lord, we must remind ourselves of his purpose in speaking them. He was taking leave of his disciples. Their hearts were in need of comfort and encouragement. And so he chooses words that will soothe their sorrow and silence all their fears.

"Let not your heart be troubled", he says, "in my Father's house are many mansions." In other words :There is ample room also for you in the place where I am going. And someday I'll come back again to bring you to the spacious mansions of my Father's house. There is room enough for all.

Yes, there is room enough! As the omniscient eye of the Savior looked out across the centuries and saw the countless throngs who would be brought to faith in him, he thought it fitting to remind us that the expanse of his Father's house is limitless. There will be room for all who come to the Father through faith in him. "in my Father's house are many mansions."

We may be sure: there will be room for you and me! He whose love has singled us out as objects of his all-redeeming mercy, and has promised to preserve us unto the day of his heavenly kingdom, has prepared and reserved a room for us. He has claimed and is holding our place in the eternal mansions.

Therefore we can say with the confidence of Paul: "I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day." What a glorious thought! There is room in the Father's house for all who trust in Jesus- and through him there is a place for us!

With that assurance in our heart, we can rest our head upon our pillow each night with the spoken or unspoken conviction: Nearer my Father's house, Where many mansions be; Where, at my Savior's side, I know There's room enough for me.