

(Isaiah 54:7-8, NIV84)

"For a brief moment I abandoned you, but with deep compassion I will bring you back. In a surge of anger I hid my face from you for a moment, but with everlasting kindness I will have compassion on you," says the LORD your Redeemer.

On a day like today, when families are accustomed to gathering to celebrate moms, it may seem very strange to avoid the ones you love the most. If you are not able to physically be with one another today, use whatever means are available to communicate your love to one another or to show expressions of that love.

Our Lord has so richly blessed us with His lovingkindness and mercy. He has forgiven our sins and made us members of His eternal family. He has also blessed us with our mothers. Give thanks to the Lord for all His many blessings and deep compassion.

So blessed in Christ with you,
Pastor Golm

P.S. Happy Mother's Day to all you moms (you know who you are).

May 10

In Days of Family Crisis

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? . . . Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors. Romans 8:35-37

In this sinful, out-of-joint world, no family escapes its days of crisis. The important thing is that we know what to "hold on to" when the day of crisis comes. The apostle Paul knew that some of his struggling Christian families in Rome were living through trying times. And so in the middle of his lengthy letter to them he speaks words which every family, facing difficult days, might ponder. He says: "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation or distress or persecution, or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? . . . Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us."

"For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

So positive is Paul of the truth of his words that he resorts to poetic hyperbole in listing all conceivable crises. Today we might say: "I am persuaded that neither sickness nor death, neither poverty nor want, neither unemployment nor forced idleness, neither quarantine nor isolation, neither an unfaithful spouse nor wayward children, neither family bitterness nor resentment, calamity nor disaster-nothing shall be able to separate us from the love of God which we have found in Christ Jesus, our Lord!"

Does this sound too abstract, too theological? By no means! When the crisis moment is upon us, when all human resources have failed, when all "helping hands" have proved devoid of help-how soul-sustaining it is to know that standing at our side is the loving, caring, omnipotent Redeemer, from whom nothing can ever separate us. When despair would overtake us, let us turn to him; let us walk with him and talk with him. He will grip our hand more firmly and lead us where his love would take us. In him is our salvation.