

(Romans 8:31-39, NIV84)

What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all-how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies.

Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died-more than that, who was raised to life-is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

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.

It is said that in the final years of his life, Dr. Martin Luther was of the opinion that within one hundred years of his death the world would come to an end and Judgment Day would ensue. Luther believed this to be true, because the world of his day had become so corrupt that he could not envision it lasting more than a hundred years. Despite all that Luther had right, he had this so very wrong, and we are thankful he did.

You and I too, as we look around us at the condition of the world and the society in which we live, might think that the world can't possibly continue for much longer. We know that the end is coming, but we don't know when the end is coming. Let us be content to know that Jesus will return when He is good and ready. Meanwhile let us make every effort to stay close to Jesus, so that whenever He comes or calls us home we will be ready. Until then, rest in the confidence that "neither the present nor the future...
...will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Loved by God with you in Christ,
Pastor Golm

July 9

Afraid To Take God at His Word?

Underneath are the everlasting arms. Deuteronomy 33:27

In the early days of the USA, a weary traveler came to the banks of the Mississippi for the first time. There was no bridge. It was in the midst of winter, and the surface of the mighty stream was covered with ice. Could he dare cross over? Would the uncertain ice be able to bear his weight?

Night was falling, and it was urgent that he reach the other side. Finally, after much hesitation and with many fears, he began to creep cautiously across the surface of the ice on his hands and knees. About halfway over, he heard the sound of singing behind him. Out of the dusk came another man, driving a four-horse load of coal across the ice and singing merrily as he went his way!

Here he was-on his hands and knees, trembling lest the ice be not strong enough to bear him up! And there, as if whisked away by the winter's wind, went the other man, his horses, his sleigh, and his load of coal-upheld by the ice on which he, the weary traveler, was creeping!

Some of us have learned merely to creep with the promises of God. Cautiously we venture forth upon his promises, as though our light step might make his promises more secure. Let us dismiss such fears! Our faith is founded upon the unchangeable and unbreakable promises of God. "I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee." Yea, "underneath are the everlasting arms!"

In days of peril or perplexity, when our faltering faith seems no match for the gathering storm, may we hold fast to the faith of the Christian poet:

Now I have found the firm foundation
Which holds mine anchor ever sure;
'Twas laid before the world's creation
In Christ my Savior's wounds secure;
Foundation which unmoved shall stay
When heaven and earth will pass away.

(Devotion from: Daily Walk With God - Meditations for Every Day, by Herman W. Gockel)