

(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.

If you had an assignment to find a passage from the writings of St. Paul that was more comforting than what is written above, you would be hard-pressed to find such a passage. The apostle lays out in clear language the challenges that face us as Christians, but both before and after he lists these challenges he assures us that, no matter what, we will never be separated from Christ's love.

We need this as almost a daily reminder, because we are so prone to doubt. We focus so much on our present circumstances, that we lose sight of God's promises. I would propose to you that the promises of God are MORE REAL than our present circumstances. I know, we can see our present circumstances, but we can't always see God's promises. Nevertheless, God's promises are more real. When doubts arise in our minds, when troubles surround us, when the world appears to be coming apart at the seams, don't give way to fear and despair. Instead, be reminded again of who it is that is for us.

At just the right time in the history of the world, God sent our Lord Jesus Christ to enter our human experience and to live before Him in perfection. And at just the right time in the history of the world, Jesus went to the cross to pay the awful price of our sins, and three days later He rose from the dead--victorious. God brought all that together at just the right time and in the exact way He wanted it to happen. So, with that in mind, don't ever doubt that God has you exactly where He wants you and that He will bless you in the exact way He wants to bless you.

He loves you and will never leave you. Come what may, He will see you through it.

Conquerors together in Christ,
Pastor Golm

June 11

The Triumphant Life

Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. Romans 8:37

How often, when someone has asked us how we are faring or how we are feeling, have we answered: "Oh, all right-under the circumstances." Perhaps there was a reason for such an answer; but, strictly speaking, the Christian need never live "under his circumstances", for God has enabled him to live above them.

The Scripture passage quoted above follows a listing of some terrible circumstances-tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, peril, sword. But what does the apostle say about all these circumstances? Does he say that these are the inevitable vexations of life which are bound to get us down?

"Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us!" We are more than conquerors. We have surmounted these circumstances. We have risen above them. And how did we get there? "Through him that loved us."

Only through Christ can our lives become victorious-in the highest and fullest sense of that word. For only he who has found full forgiveness for all his sins through faith in the Redeemer can truly say (what Paul said just before he wrote these words): "If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?"

The only circumstance under which the child of God must live is the circumstance of God's love and mercy. That "circumstance" will never change. For we have our Lord's assurance: "I have loved thee with an everlasting love; therefore with loving-kindness have I drawn thee." Living under that "circumstance" , we can live above all others.

Lord, let me walk in the full assurance of Your love. I ask it in the name, and for the sake, of Jesus Christ, my Savior. Amen.

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