

“The Love Of God”
Romans 8:35-39

Introduction:

1. **IE:** In 1875 - A Woman Had A Problem - She Was Out Of Money - And She Desperately Needed \$5! Not A Large Sum - Even For That Day - But Still - For Her - It Was A Significant Sum! The Woman Did What Became Normal For Her, When She Was Faced With A Need - She Prayed! And - Within Just A Few Minutes - A Complete Stranger Came To Her Door - And Asked If She Could Use Something He Had To Spare! Yes - It Was Exactly \$5! Later, The Woman Said:
 - “I Have No Way Of Accounting For This, Except To Believe That God Put It Into The Heart Of This Good Man To Bring The Money! My First Thought Was That It Is So Wonderful The Way The Lord Leads Me, And I Immediately Wrote A Poem!”
 - And That Is What Led The Famous American Hymn Writer, Fanny Crosby, To Write:
 - All The Way My Savior Leads Me
 - What Have I To Ask Beside?
 - Can I Doubt His Tender Mercy,
 - Who Through Life Has Been My Guide?
2. And - That’s A Good Question:
 - For Those Who Belong To The Lord:
 - Through Faith In Jesus Christ:
 - “Can I Doubt His Tender Mercy, Who Through Life Has Been My Guide?”
 - It Is This Question:
 - That The Apostle Paul Has Been Addressing:
 - All Throughout Romans 8:
 - Where - This Morning:
 - We Come To Its End As Well As Its Climax!
 - So - Please Turn Back There In Your Bibles With Me - Romans 8!
 - Because It Is There:
 - After Describing All That God Has Done:
 - To Not Only Accomplish Your Salvation:
 - But Also - To Secure Your Salvation:
 - He Seeks To Deal With Any Further Doubts That You Might Have!
3. When You Turn To & Trust In Jesus Christ:
 - To Be Your Savior - And You Ask Him:
 - By Faith - To Forgive You For Your Sin:
 - Then - At That Moment:
 - Believing That He Died On The Cross For You & Rose Again From The Dead:
 - You Belong To Him!
 - Have You Done That?
 - If So - Then:
 - In This Chapter - God Throws Back The Curtain To Show You:
 - That Your Salvation In Time:
 - Is Just The Culmination Of His Foreknowledge & Predestination:
 - Before Time!
- That Is - God Set Himself:
 - To Save You - A Sinner:
 - Before You Even Breathed Your First Breath!
4. And - Since This Is So:
 - 8:28 - We Can Now Know:
 - “That all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose!”
 - And Yet - There Are Times In Our Lives:
 - That We Still Wonder About This:
 - And Even Fear & Doubt!
 - Well - From 8:31-39:
 - Paul Set Out To Deal With Our Doubts!
 - So - If You Ever Struggle With Doubt:
 - About Your Hope In God:

- Remember & Believe That:
 - From 8:31-32 - God Is For You - And Will Also - Freely Give You All Things!
 - And - He Proved This:
 - When He “Spared Not His Own Son, But Delivered Him Up For Us All!”
 - And Now - There Is No Need For You:
 - To Doubt - The Hope You Have:
 - In The Lord!
 - But Also - If You Ever Struggle With Doubt:
 - About Your Peace With God:
 - Because Of Your “Sin Which Doth So Easily Beset” You (Hebrews 12:1):
 - Then Remember & Believe That:
 - From 8:33-34 - There Is Now No One Who Can Ever Charge You Or Condemn You For Your Sin!
 - And - God Proves This:
 - Because He Is The One Who Justified You - And:
 - Jesus Christ Is The One:
 - Who “Died, Yea Rather, That Is Risen Again, Who Is Even At The Right Hand Of God, Who Also Maketh Intercession For Us!”
 - And Now - There Is No Need For You:
 - To Ever Doubt Or Fear:
 - The Peace You Have:
 - With The Lord!
5. But Then - In The Final Verses Of Romans 8:
- The Apostle Paul Deals With:
 - Any Further Doubt:
 - Concerning The Love Of God:
 - For You - His Child!
 - In The Words Of Fanny Crosby:
 - “Can I Doubt His Tender Mercy, Who Through Life Has Been My Guide?”
 - Paul’s Answer Would Be *No!*
 - Because - As We Read From:
 - 8:35-39 - “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? / As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. / 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!”
 - And This Is Why - Now:
 - There Is No Need For You:
 - As A Believer In Christ:
 - To Ever Wonder About Or Doubt:
 - The Love Of God:
 - For You!
 - And So - Starting At 8:35 - Paul Reminds Us About:
1. ***The Truth Of Christ’s Love!***
- In Fact - The Question He Asks:
 - Implies The Doctrine - The Truth:
 - Of Christ’s Love!
 - 8:35 - “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?”
 - This Morning - We’ve Been Singing Some Songs:
 - That Tell Us More About:
 - The Love Of Our Savior, Jesus Christ!
 - And His Love For You Is:
 - An Exclusive Love!
 - Of Course - There Is A Sense In Which:
 - “God So Loves The World” - And:
 - All That Are In The World!

- But - There Is A Special Love:
 - That Jesus Has For His Own!
 - For Those Whom He Called - And:
 - For Those Who, By Faith, Came!
- In John 13:1 - We Are Told That:
 - “When Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end!”
- If You Are A Believer In Christ:
 - Then Jesus Loves You:
 - In An Exclusive Way - And:
 - He Will Love You Unto The End!
 - His Love Is Also:
- An Expressive Love!
 - The Reason You And I Know His Love:
 - Is Not Just Because Of:
 - His Words Of Love:
 - But - Because Of:
 - His Work Of Love!
 - In Ephesians 5:2 - We See How Jesus:
 - Proved His Love For You:
 - Through His Own Sacrifice On The Cross For Your Sins!
 - “And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savor!”
 - Christ’s Love Is An Expressive Love:
 - For You! But - It Is Also:
- An Everlasting Love!
 - It Is An Eternal Love - That Has:
 - Neither Beginning Nor End!
 - Jeremiah 31:2 Reflects Christ’s Own Heart For His People:
 - “Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee!”
 - Jesus Loved You & Still Loves You:
 - With An Everlasting Love!
 - But - Even More - His Love Is:
- An Extravagant Love!
 - According To Ephesians 3:19:
 - The Apostle Paul Describes The Love Of Christ:
 - As That “Which Passeth Knowledge!”
 - That Is - It Is Beyond Your Comprehension!
 - It Is A Measureless & A Fathomless Love!
- This Is The Truth Of Christ’s Love:
 - For Those Who Belong To Him!
 - And That Is Why Paul Again Asks:
 - “Who Shall Separate Us From The Love Of Christ?”
 - As With All Of The Other Questions In This Chapter:
 - The Answer Is An Emphatic:
 - NOONE! And Even: NOTHING!
 - And Yet - There Are Times In Our Lives:
 - That We Still Wonder About Christ’s Love!
 - Sometimes We Still:
 - Question / Fear / Doubt!
 - And That Is Because Of:

2. ***The (Seeming) Threats To Christ’s Love:***

- Which Paul Then Lists For Us In The Rest Of:
 - 8:35 - “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?”
 - Here Are 7 Potential Threats:

- That You Might Face - Even As A Christian - And That Might Cause You To Wonder:
 - About Christ's Love For You!
- And Yet - God Wants To Reassure You Today:
 - That None Of These Things:
 - Can Ever "Separate" You "From The Love Of Christ!"
 - That Exclusive, Expressive, Everlasting & Extravagant Love!
- Not Any Kind Of Affliction Or Anguish!
 - Which Is Another Way To Refer To:
 - "Tribulation" & "Distress" Here!
 - "Tribulation":
 - Refers To Any External Pressure You Might Face:
 - That My Try To Hinder Your Perception Of God's Love!
 - And - "Distress":
 - Refers To Any Internal Pressure You Might Feel:
 - That May Even Come About From:
 - That External Pressure!
 - Like What Paul Experienced:
 - On One Of His Missionary Journeys:
 - When In Macedonia - "Our Flesh Had No Rest, But We Were Troubled On Every Side, Without Were Fightings, Within Were Fears!"
 - Yet - Even Then - There Was Absolutely *No* Kind:
 - Of Tribulation Or Distress:
 - That Would Ever Separate Him:
 - From The Love Of Christ!
 - And The Same Is True For You! Also:
- Not Any Kind Of Abuse Or Absence!
 - "Persecution":
 - Refers To The Active Mistreatment:
 - Of Those Who Follow Jesus Christ!
 - In 2 Timothy 3:12 - Paul Reminds Us That:
 - "All That Will Live Godly In Christ Jesus Shall Suffer Persecution!"
 - In One Form Or Another!
 - And - "Famine":
 - Refers To The Lack Of Necessary Things:
 - Like Food - Perhaps Even Like:
 - Fanny Crosby & Her Need For \$5 - Possibly For Her "Daily Bread!"
 - Yet - Even In These - There Is *No* Kind:
 - Persecution Or Famine:
 - That Will Ever Separate You:
 - From The Love Of Christ! Also:
- Not Any Kind Of Austerity Or Alarm Or Attack!
 - "Nakedness":
 - Refers To Being Stripped Of Everything You Have:
 - Even To The Point Of "Nakedness!"
 - And - "Peril":
 - Refers To Any Kind Of Danger:
 - You Might Face In Life!
 - And - "Sword"
 - Refers To The Worse Form Of Danger & Persecution A Christian Might Face!
- And Yet - Even When You Face These Kinds Of Things:
 - There Is No Kind Of:
 - Nakedness Or Peril Or Sword:
 - That Can Separate You:
 - From The Love Of Christ!
 - And - The Apostle Paul - Who Wrote These Words:
 - Would Know!
 - Because In 2 Corinthians 11 - He Describes How He Went Through Each One Of These

- Things - Except For The Last!
- But He Would Eventually Face That One Too - On A Road Just Outside Of Rome!
- And Yet - Even Though:
 - His Head May Have Been Severed From His Body:
 - On That Day - That Sword Still:
 - Could Not Separate Him From:
 - The Love Of His Christ!
- And This Is True:
 - For All Who Have Christ As Their Savior!
 - Because - We Even Understand:

3. *The Trial In Christ's Love!*

- In 8:36 - Paul Quotes From Psalm 44:22:
 - To Remind Us That - Especially For Christians:
 - Suffering Will Often Be Our Lot In Life!
 - He Writes - "As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter!"
 - You See - For Those Who Love The Lord - And:
 - Are Loved By The Lord:
 - We Are Called To Suffer:
 - In Many Ways & At Many Times!
- We May Suffer Forcibly!
 - Even To The Point Of Being "Killed!"
 - Like Paul Was! Like Peter Was:
 - And Like Many Of The Saints Were & Are!
 - What Does The Book Of Hebrews:
 - Tell Us About These Martyrs? "They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; (Of whom the world was not worthy!)" (11:37-38)
 - There May Even Come A Day:
 - When Our Lives Enter Into This Number!
 - But Even More:
- We May Suffer Frequently!
 - "All The Day Long" - Paul & The Psalmist Says!
 - Even Today - We Don't Know:
 - What Is Taking Place In The Lives:
 - Of All The Saints In This World!
 - But - We Need Not Fear:
 - Because - As We Are Told In Zechariah 2:8:
 - "He that toucheth you toucheth the apple of his eye!"
 - But - Even More:
 - We May Suffer Without Feeling!
 - That Is - Those Who Persecute Those Who Are Christ's:
 - Care Nothing For Them!
 - Care Nothing For Us!
 - Instead - To Them:
 - Christians Are Nothing More Than:
 - "Sheep For The Slaughter!"
- So - What We Find In This Verse:
 - Is The Reality Of The Threats We Face!
 - But - It Is Also A Reminder:
 - Of What We Can & Must Do:
 - When It Seems Like All The World Is Against Us!
 - As The Psalmist Cried Out:
 - In Psalm 44:26 - "Arise for our help, and redeem us for thy mercies' sake!"
 - We Can Do This:

- Because His Mercy Remains!
- His Loving-Kindness Endures Forever!
- So - Even In Times Of Darkness:
 - You Do Not Need To Doubt:
 - His Tender Mercies!
 - Instead - Keep Your Faith In His Everlasting Love!
- Because - We Then Discover - From 8:37-39:

4. *The Triumph Of Christ's Love!*

- 8:37-39 - "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!"
 - In 8:37 - Paul Answers His Own Question!
 - "Nay" - He Says!
 - So - Not Only Are We:
 - Not Separated From:
 - His Love:
 - We Are (Even) Prevailing Through His Love!
 - 8:37 - "In All These Things We Are More Than Conquerors!"
 - Paul Could Say This:
 - Because He Went Through His Own:
 - Crucible Of Suffering!
 - **IE**: In The USMC - At The End Of Boot Camp - Physical Stress Test - The Crucible! Demonstrates Skill And Strength!
 - This Is What Paul Says All That Suffering Did For Him - Not Physically - But Spiritually!
 - He Does Not Say That He:
 - Prevailed **Over** All These Things!
 - Rather - That He Prevailed:
 - **In** All These Things!
 - That Is - God Used All Those Things:
 - To Draw Him Even Closer:
 - To Christ & His Love!
 - So - Instead Of:
 - Cutting Paul Off From The Love Of Christ:
 - They Caused Paul:
 - To Cling To Christ & His Love:
 - Even More!
 - And - Instead Of:
 - Confusing Paul About The Love Of Christ:
 - They Caused Paul:
 - To Have More Confidence In Christ And His Love!"
 - And So - He Prevailed!
 - He Became & We Can Become:
 - "More Than Conquerors!"
 - But - Unlike Boot Camp - It Has Nothing To Do With Our Strength Or Skill!
 - Whether Of Heart / Mind / Will - Like We Often Try To Do To Simply "Get Through Them!"
 - No - We Are Prevailing / We Are More Than Conquerors:
 - "Through Him That Loved Us!"
 - Through Jesus Christ!
 - His Love! His Strength!
 - So - We Prevail:
 - "Not Even By Our Hold On Him, But By His Hold On Us!" (Cranfield)
 - And That Is Why - In These Final Two Verses:
 - Of Romans 8 - Paul Adds That:
- We Are Persuaded Of His Love!

- When Paul Says:
 - “For I Am Persuaded!”
 - He Expresses A Faith:
 - That Is Firm:
 - In God’s Love:
 - Because It Was Forged:
 - In His Experience Of Suffering!
- And He Wants Us To Know:
 - That Even Those Things:
 - That May Cause Us To Fear:
 - Those Same Things:
 - Will Never Cause God’s Love To Fail!
- Even The Fear Of Those Things:
 - That May Be Unknown To Us!
 - Like The 10 Things He Enumerates For Us! Like:
- Our Unknown Conditions!
 - Starting With “Neither Death Nor Life”:
 - Paul Starts To Describe Different Ranges:
 - And Spectrums - Of What Causes Us To Fear & Doubt!
 - So - For The Christian:
 - Nothing About Death - Nor:
 - Anything In Life:
 - No Matter How Uncertain & Fearful Things May Get:
 - They Will Never Separate You From The Love Of God!
 - After All - What Happens:
 - At Death - For The Christian?
 - 2 Corinthians 5:8 - “We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord!”
 - Or - What About:
- Our Unknown Challengers!
 - By Speaking Of “Angels” & “Principalities” & “Powers”:
 - Paul Seems To Be Referring To:
 - A Range Of Unknown Spiritual Adversaries!
 - But - No Matter How:
 - Frightening They May Be:
 - In Their Activity:
 - As Fallen Angels!
 - And - No Matter How:
 - High They May Be:
 - In Their Authority:
 - As Principalities!
 - And - No Matter How:
 - Strong They May Be:
 - In Their Ability:
 - As Powers!
 - Yet - Not Even They:
 - Can Separate You:
 - From The Love Of God!
 - After All:
 - It Is Jesus Himself Who - According To:
 - Colossians 2:15 - “Spoiled principalities and powers” - And “Made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them!”
 - But Also:
- Our Unknown Circumstances!
 - Paul Goes On In 8:38 - “Nor Things Present, Nor Things To Come!”
 - So - Even If There Is Something:
 - In The Present:
 - That Feels Impending!

- Or - Even If There Is Something:
 - In The Future:
 - That Feels Inevitable!
- Even Those Unknown Circumstances:
 - Cannot Separate You From God's Love!
 - After All - According To Galatians 1:4:
 - This Is Why Jesus - "Gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father!"
 - But What About:
- Our Unknown Complications!
 - As In 8:39 - "Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature!"
 - There Is No Wall:
 - So High! And:
 - There Is No Mote:
 - So Deep!
 - Psalm 139:7-10 - "Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? / If I ascend up into heaven, thou [art] there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou [art there]. / [If] I take the wings of the morning, [and] dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; / Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me!"
 - Also - There Is No Other Creation:
 - Designed By God - Or:
 - Devised By Man:
 - That "Shall Be Able To Separate Us From The Love Of God!"
- Again - The Apostle Paul:
 - Knew Something About These Great Unknowns!
 - But - He Knew That God's Love:
 - Was Infinitely Greater:
 - Than Anything Else:
 - That Might Try To Separate Him:
 - From God's Love!
 - **IE:** Even When Men Tried - By Putting Him In A Prison - What Could Paul Say? 2 Timothy 2:9 - "Wherein I suffer trouble, as an evil doer, [even] unto bonds; but the word of God is not bound!"

Conclusion:

1. And All This Is Because:
 - The "Love Of God" Is "In Christ Jesus Our Lord!" (8:39)
 - Jesus Christ Is:
 - "Both The Medium And The Mediator Of God's Love Toward The Believer!" (Shedd)
 - And So - God's Love:
 - Is Not Only:
 - Exclusive & Expressive, Everlasting & Extravagant!
 - It Is Also:
 - A Sacrificial Love:
 - Because Of What Christ Did:
 - To Demonstrate Their Divine Love!
 - It Is Also:
 - A Saving Love:
 - Because That Is Why Jesus Came:
 - "To Seek And To Save That Which Was Lost!"
 - God's Love Is Also:
 - A Sovereign Love:
 - Because It Is The Love Of The Lord!
 - It is A Love That Is "Gratuitous, Mysterious, Without Any Known Or Conceivable Cause!" (Hodge)
 - And:
 - God's Love Is Ultimately:
 - A Satisfying Love - When He Becomes "Our Lord"
 - So That The Apostle John Could Write:

- 1 John 4:19 - "We love him, because he first loved us!"

2. This Is The Love Of God!

- A - "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling!"

- Christian - There Is Nothing:

- That Can Separate You:

- "From The Love Of God, Which Is In Christ Jesus Our Lord!"

- So - When It Comes To:

- Your Hope In The Lord!

- Your Peace With The Lord!

- And - Your Love From The Lord!

- "Be Not Afraid – Only Believe!"

* Do You Know This Love?

* How Will You Respond To This Love?

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