

Morning Sermon August 31, 2014

Romans 8:35-39

“Christ’s Victorious Love”

I. *What Christians are often exposed to in this world*

– tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? **36 As it is written: “For Your sake we are killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.**

1. *Paul is writing from experience, not theory –*

23 Are they ministers of Christ?-- I speak as a fool-- I am more: in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often. 24 From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one. 25 Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; 26 in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; 27 in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness-- 28 besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches. 29 Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to stumble, and I do not burn with indignation? 30 If I must boast, I will boast in the things which concern my infirmity. (2Corinthians 11:23-30 NKJ)

2. *He was writing to people who could relate –*

Forms of execution used by the Romans included systematic murder, crucifixion, and the feeding of Christians to lions and other wild beasts. [Tacitus'](#) Annals XV.44 record: "...a vast multitude, were convicted, not so much of the crime of incendiarism (fire starting) as of hatred of the human race. And in their deaths they were made the subjects of sport; for they were wrapped in the hides of wild beasts and torn to pieces by dogs, or nailed to crosses, or set on fire, and when day declined, were burned to serve for nocturnal lights."

3. *He could have been writing to believers living in our day, any day –*
A. *According to David B. Barrett – editor of the World Christian Encyclopedia 70,000,000 Christians have been martyred for their faith since the time of Christ.*

B. *An estimate of killing recently puts the number at around 100,000 Christians killed for the faith annually.*

C. *Of course, people were being killed for true faith even before the time of Christ, consider, Paul writes –*

*As it is written: “For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.”**22 Yet for Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Psalm 44:22 / see also (Acts 14:22 NKJ)***

II. Now, there is certain wrong, even atheistic thinking about such circumstances –

Where is God? They ask!

3 My tears have been my food day and night, while they continually say to me, "Where is your God?" (Psalm 42:3 NKJ)

10 As with a breaking of my bones, My enemies reproach me, While they say to me all day long, "Where is your God?" (Psalm 42:10 NKJ)

“Martyrdom seems to be defeat; so it is regarded by the perpetrators.”
John Murray

They feel strength in killing, taking life, they fell superior and if we walk by SIGHT and not FAITH, it SEEMS they might be right.

III. Yet there is a POWER here they do not see, the LOVE of Christ –

37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

1. What are we?

ὑπερνικῶμεν (Romans 8:37 BGT) hypernikomen one word in Greek is translated by five words in English – we are more than conquerors

2. *How are we so super victorious?*

through Him who loved us. Romans 8:37

5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, 6 and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. (Revelation 1:5-6 NKJ)

The tense of the verb “loved” points to the love exercised in and exhibited by the death upon the cross. This is not to suggest in the least that the love of Christ is in the past. Verse 35 conceives of this love as abiding and, as such, insuring the security of the believer.

John Murray

A. In Christ's death and resurrection, His Love defeated death, and with it every negative thing, Christ's LOVE makes us invincible, Super Sheep! Superman (a fictional character) had only one "S" on his chest; we have two SS because we are Super Sheep, thanks to Christ. There is no kryptonite that can be used against us, nor any army that can defeat us!

B. Christ is the Arm, or the POWER of God –

Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

C. His death was is our salvation –

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. (1 Corinthians 1:18 NKJ)

IV. What are some of the bullets that will bounce of our chests when we are Christ's sheep? What / Who cannot separate us from His Love?

1. *Neither Death nor Life :38*

NKJ Romans 8:38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, It is easy to fear death may separate us ... yet life with all its trials seems to also against us

2. *Angels or Principalities nor Powers - :38*

nor angels nor principalities nor powers

Good or bad angels demons --- you would not expect a good angel to do such BUT --- Satan masquerades as an angel of light

3. *Things present or things to come - :38*

We fear the future don't we? Yet, Christ tells us not to worry about tomorrow!

4. *Height nor depth nor any created thing - :39*

NKJ Romans 8:39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Height = Heaven or high things ... Depth = lower depth of Hell things or basically anything anywhere you can imagine NOTHING SHALL separate us from God's love in Christ –

5. Nothing shall separate us from Christ's love – John 10:27-30; **NKJ Colossians 2:15 Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.**

“But who are these at his chariot wheels? Who are these grim monsters that come howling in the rear? I know them. First of all there is the arch enemy. Look at the old serpent, bound and fettered, how he writhes his ragged length along! his azure hues all tarnished with trailing in the dust, his scales despoiled of their once-vaunted brightness. Now is captivity led captive, and death and hell shall be cast into the lake of fire. With what derision is the chief of rebels regarded. How is he become the object of everlasting contempt. He that sitteth in the heavens doth laugh, and the Lord doth have him in derision. Behold now how the serpent's head is broken, and the dragon is trampled under foot. And now regard attentively yon hideous monster, Sin, chained hand in hand with his satanic sire. See how he rolls his fiery eye-balls, mark how he twists and writhes in agonies. Mark how he glares upon the holy city, but is unable to spit his venom there, for he is chained and gagged, and dragged along an unwilling captive at the wheels of the victor. And there, too, is old Death, with his darts all broken and his hands behind him—the grim king of terrors, he too is a captive.” CH Spurgeon

Arnold A. Brevick