

No Threat Can Separate Us (vv. 35-39)

VERSE 35 Who will separate us from the love of Christ (τίς ἡμᾶς χωρίσει ἀπὸ τῆς ἀγάπης τοῦ Χριστοῦ [*interrog.pro.nom.m.s. tis who? + pro.acc.m.p. ego + fut.act.ind.3s. chorizo separate + prep apo + d.a.w/noun gen.f.s. agape love + d.a.w/noun gen.m.s. Christ*]?)

Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword (θλιψις ἢ στενοχωρία ἢ διωγμὸς ἢ λιμὸς ἢ γυμνότης ἢ κίνδυνος ἢ μάχαιρα [*noun nom.f.s. thlipsis trouble + conj. e or + noun nom.f.s. stenochoria distress, calamity, difficulty + conj. e or + nom.m.s. diogmos persecution + conj. e or + noun nom.m.s. limos famine, hunger + conj. e or + noun nom.f.s. gumnotes nakedness + conj. e or + noun nom.m.s. kindunos peril + conj. e or + noun nom.f.s. machaira sword*]?)

The Hatred Against is Continuous (v. 36)

VERSE 36 Just as it is written, "FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG; WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED (καθὼς γέγραπται ὅτι Ἐνεκεν σοῦ θανατούμεθα ὅλην τὴν ἡμέραν, ἐλογίσθημεν ὡς πρόβατα σφαγῆς [*adv. kathos just as + pf.act.ind.3s. grapho + conj. hoti + prep. eneka for the sake of + pro.gen.m.s. su + pres.pass.ind.1p. thanatoo put to death + adj.acc.f.s. holos all, whole + d.a.w/noun acc.f.s. hemera day + aor.pass.ihnd.1p. logizomai consider + conj. hos as + noun nom.nt.p. probaton sheep + noun gen.f.s. sphage slaughter*])."

To No Avail (v. 37)

VERSE 37 But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us (ἀλλ' ἐν τούτοις πᾶσιν ὑπερνικῶμεν διὰ τοῦ ἀγαπήσαντος ἡμᾶς [*conj. alla but + prep en + adj.loc.nt.p. houtos + adj.loc.nt.p. pas all + pres.act.ind.1p. hupernikao overwhelmingly victorious; 1x + prep. dia through + d.a.w/aor.act.part.gen.m.s. agapao to love + pro.acc.m.p. ego*]).

ANALYSIS: VERSES 35-37

17. In verse 35 Paul entertains that notion that there are potential dangers facing believers in a listing of seven items.
18. He prefaces the listing with a question for our consideration “Who will separate us from the love of Christ?”
19. This is followed up with a listing of threats that believers might undergo.
20. “The love of Christ” refers to His love for those that are His.
21. Jesus said that no one can “snatch” those that are His sheep (Jn. 10:28-29).
22. Yet another statement regarding eternal security.
23. The listing in verse 35b refers to a variety of threats that believers might experience.
24. The first is “tribulation” a general term here for trouble or hard circumstances (cf. Jn. 16:33).
25. We know that tribulations work a positive good (Rom. 5:3).
26. The general term “distress” refers to a wide variety of things even extreme things like calamity (cf. 2 Cor. 12:10).
27. Persecution refers to attacks against us for our faith ranging from minor affronts to extreme actions (one of the reasons some fall away; Matt. 13:21; also Acts 13:50; 2 Cor. 12:10; 2 Thess. 1:4; Titus 3:11).
28. Famine or extreme deprivation of food cannot undermine our so great salvation. (2 Cor. 11:27).
29. Number six “peril” refers to a variety of dangers (2 Cor. 11:26 of the only other use of this term).
30. The last “sword” refers to crime and warfare (Heb. 11:34, 37).
31. In verse 36 Paul quotes Psalm 44:22 (LXX) to establish the fact that Jewish believers faced external threats throughout their long history.
32. And of course the force behind these threats came from the evil one.
33. We like Israel are the under the constant hatred of Satan, but as Jesus said of the Church, “the gates of hell will not prevail against it” (Matt. 16:18).
34. We are viewed by the satanic forces as sheep to be slaughtered.
35. Every moment of every day we are targets of this murderous hatred.
36. Paul applies this verse to CA believers.
37. They hated Jesus and they hate us (Jn. 15:18; 1 Jn. 3:13).
38. In verse 37 we have the striking contrast between the threats (“these things”) against us and our security under God’s plan.
39. The objective of our adversaries is completely negated contrary to appearances.
40. Jesus victory over His enemies including death will be ours in Ph 3.
41. We are above and beyond conquerors over the cosmos and the god of this world.
42. Paul employs a hapax translated “overwhelmingly conquer.”
43. God’s love for us is immutable.
44. And God vindicates and eternally protects that which He loves.
45. If you love someone you protect that person.
46. All believers will share in this victory over the forces of evil.
47. It will be even sweeter for those who held fast the BD in the face of sufferings and threats.

Inseparable (vv. 38-39)

VERSE 38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers (πέπεισμαι γὰρ ὅτι οὔτε θάνατος οὔτε ζωὴ οὔτε ἄγγελοι οὔτε ἀρχαὶ οὔτε ἐνεστῶτα οὔτε μέλλοντα οὔτε δυνάμεις [pf.act.ind.1s. peitho persuade + conj. gar + conj. hoti that + conj. oute neither + noun nom.m.s. thanatos death + conj. oute nor + noun nom.f.s. zoe life + conj. oute nor + noun nom.m.p. angelos angel + conj. oute nor + noun nom.f.p. arche beginning, first; “principalities” + conj. oute nor + pf.act.part.nom.nt.p. enistemi be impending; “things present” + conj. oute nor + pres.act.part.nom.nt.p. mello be about; “things to come” + conj. oute nor + noun nom.f.s. dunamis power]),

VERSE 39 nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord (οὔτε ὕψωμα οὔτε βάθος οὔτε τις κτίσις ἕτερα δυνήσεται ἡμᾶς χωρῖσαι ἀπὸ τῆς ἀγάπης τοῦ θεοῦ τῆς ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ τῷ κυρίῳ ἡμῶν [conj. oute nor + noun nom.nt.s. hupsoma height + conj. oute nor + noun nom.nt.s. bathos depth + conj. oute nor + pro.nom.f.s. tis any + noun nom.f.s. ktisis creature, what is created + adj.nom.f.s. heteros other + fut.dep.ind.3s. dunamai be able + pro.acc.p. ego + aor.act.infin. chorizo separate + prep apo from + d.a.w/noun abl.f.s. agape love + d.a.w/noun gen.m.s. theos + d.a.gen.f.s. “which” + prep en + noun loc.m.s. Christ + noun gen.m.s. Jesus + d.a.w/noun loc.m.s. kuros lord + pro.gen.p. ego]).

ANALYSIS: VERSES 38-39

1. Paul continues the topic of eternal security (Ph 1) and here presents it as his personal conviction.
2. “For I am convinced” refers to Paul’s inner confidence with regard to his salvation.
3. He over the years gained complete confidence that nothing could separate him from union with Christ.
4. This confidence was with him to end of his life (2 Tim. 1:12) and sustained him through his considerable sufferings.

5. The nature of salvation with its promise of eternal life based solely on faith in Christ cannot be overturned by any external threat or entity.
6. He lists ten things that cannot separate believers in Jesus Christ for their standing as children of God.
7. He expresses this security as “the love of God”, that is, the love which God the Father has for His own.
8. This love is said to be “in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
9. God loves us with the same love He has for His Son.
10. Since the Father and the Son are inseparable and we are in union with Christ, we are as secure as the Son is.
11. If you love someone you will do all that is in your power to protect them.
12. Since God’s love is backed up by His omnipotence we are inseparable not matter the nature of external threats.
13. The listing here mentions ten items that we might potentially face.
14. “Death” refers to the physical death of believers in Christ which results when the soul/spirit leaves the body and goes immediately into the presence of God (Jam. 2:26 “the body without the spirit is dead...”).
15. Death is the last enemy that will be abolished (1 Cor. 15:26 “The last enemy that will be abolished is death.”).
16. So, “whether we live, or die, we are the Lord’s” (Rom. 14:8).
17. The physical death of the believer is via the agency of the Lord (
18. Those who have died will be raised along with those of us who remain (1 Thess. 4:14 “For if we believer that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus.”; Rom. 14:9 “For to this end Christ died and lived again, that He might be Lord of the dead and the living.”).
19. “Life” refers to anything we might encounter during our Ph 2.
20. “Angels” refer to spirit beings who have great power but not able to separate us from our salvation.
21. This refers to fallen angels as elect angels would have no desire to undo our salvation.
22. “Principalities” refer to fallen angels high in the satanic hierarchy (cf. 1 Cor. 15:24; Eph. 6:12; Col. 2:15).
23. “Nor things present” refers to anything at any point in the historical realm that poses a threat.
24. “Nor things to come” viewed from the standpoint of the 1st century AD could include things such as nuclear weapons, man-made agents to poison and kill humans.
25. “Nor powers” can refer to evil entities and rulers who oppress and subjugate people.
26. “Height” and “depth” refers to extreme spatial dimensions.
27. The tenth item is all-inclusive for anything created.
28. This would include the believer who might do something evil and destructive to himself.
29. We at our worst cannot undermine our salvation!

END: Romans Chapter Eight

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