

## **Romans 8:28-39 “Nothing Can Separate Us”**

### ***Building Your Faith: Exploring Scripture with the Pastors***

**June 20, 2021**

I. Greet one another, begin with prayer, and read Romans 8:28-39 (ESV):

<sup>28</sup> And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup> For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. <sup>30</sup> And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

### **God's Everlasting Love**

<sup>31</sup> What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? <sup>33</sup> Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup> Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

<sup>35</sup> Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? <sup>36</sup> As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all the day long;  
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

<sup>37</sup> No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup> For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup> nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

II. Romans 8:18-27 according to N.T. Wright, “In verses 18-27 we see that the world is in pain, groaning in the birth pangs of new creation. We see too that the church shares this pain, groaning in our longing for our own redeemed bodies, suffering is the tension between the ‘already’ of possessing the first fruits of the Spirit and the ‘not yet’ of our personal moral existence. The church is not to be separated from the pain of the world; now we discover that God himself does not stand apart from the pain both of the world and the church, but comes to dwell in the middle of it in the person and power of the Spirit. How does the knowledge that this kind of intercession is happening in us between God and the Spirit affect your perspective on life and the world?”

### III. Chapter Highlights

- a. God’s Provision for Our Time of Waiting (v. 26-30)
  - i. All things work toward the good.
  - ii. The great plan of God.
- b. The Work of God for Us in Christ (v. 31-34)
- c. The Love of God for Us in Christ (v. 35-39)

### IV. Discussion Questions:

- a. What are the various dimensions of the purpose to which we are called in verses 28-30?
- b. Which of these dimensions strikes you most and why?
- c. In verses 31-39, the same question is asked in four slightly different ways and then answered each time. The paragraph is summarizing the major themes of Romans 5-8. Summarize the question asked and the answers that are offered.
- d. How are these last verses of Romans 8 a great assurance for us in the tension of life and the suffering of the world?