

### Who Will Separate Us from the Love of Christ?

*Rom 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? 36 As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." 37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. 38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 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.*

\* **Paul completes** Rom 8 by showing us that, even if all the worst \_\_\_\_\_, and all the forces of \_\_\_\_\_, were to combine against us, it would not be sufficient to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

\* **The NT** give us no guarantees of an \_\_\_\_\_ life. In vs 36, Paul quotes Psalm \_\_\_\_\_ to show that if you're a faithful believer, you will almost certainly \_\_\_\_\_ for righteousness sake at some time, in some way, and perhaps severely.

\* **It doesn't** take much suffering before we feel like God has \_\_\_\_\_ us, that he doesn't \_\_\_\_\_ us anymore, in short, that we have been separated from God's love.

\* **The Lord** Jesus himself went through the most severe suffering and affliction for righteousness sake. He was accounted as a \_\_\_\_\_ for the slaughter.

*Isa 53.7 He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter ...*

\* **Jesus, in** and thru his suffering, displayed the very \_\_\_\_\_ that we are supposed to imitate. In addition to winning our salvation, Jesus was perfected as a \_\_\_\_\_ — made to stand up to his full height & greatness as the Son of God. The Father deals with \_\_\_\_\_ the same way, using trials & adversities to build within us the character & glory of \_\_\_\_\_. That's why Paul says that even in the midst of adversities, we are more than conquerors through him who loved us (37), because God makes our adversities our \_\_\_\_\_.

So afflictions & adversities do not prove we have been separated from God's love, but that we haven't. It's the \_\_\_\_\_ of training that indicates there is no fatherly relationship.

*Heb 12.2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith ...*

*Heb 2.10 [I]t was fitting for [the Father] ... in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.*

*Heb 12.7 If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten [i.e., train and discipline]?*

*Rom 8.29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.*

*Rom 5.2 {W}e ... rejoice in hope of the glory of God. 3 And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; 4 and perseverance, character; and character, hope.*

*Heb 12.8 But if you are without chastening [i.e., training and discipline] ... then you are illegitimate and not sons.*

\* **But what** if we separate ourselves from God's love by turning away from God in the midst of trials and temptations? What do we learn from David, the man after God's own heart, who committed adultery and murder?

\* **In the** final analysis, it is not the strength of our \_\_\_\_\_ on God that maintains us & makes us more than conquerors; it's the strength of God's \_\_\_\_\_ on us. It is God who gave us \_\_\_\_\_ in the first place, and it is God who sustains that \_\_\_\_\_ till the end.

*Eph 2.8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God*

\* **Does that** make us passive? Is it an incentive to laziness or irresponsibility?

\* **God's sovereignty** doesn't remove our freedom and responsibility, it \_\_\_\_\_ them. If God is not sovereign, then we are simply collections of \_\_\_\_\_ in a sea of inescapable material determinism. It is the God's sovereignty that makes us \_\_\_\_\_ & therefore responsible.

*Phil 2.12 Work out your salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who is at work in you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.*

\* **The NT** constantly reminds us of God's sovereignty, while at the same time telling us to get up, get going, and \_\_\_\_\_ with God.

Walk in the light (1Jn 1.7; Eph 5.8), by faith (2Cor 5.7), in love (Eph 5.2), in newness of life (Rom 6.4), as Jesus walked (1Jn 2.6), according to his commandments (2Jn 6), in the truth (3Jn 4), worthy of God (Col 1.10; 1Th 2.12), worthy of your calling (Eph 4.1), in good works (Eph 2.10), in Christ (Col 2.6), in the Spirit (Gal 5.25), and in wisdom (Eph 5.15).

\* **People who** understand God's sovereignty are not \_\_\_\_\_ people afraid to act, but \_\_\_\_\_ people confident to act. They live with energetic submission, confident humility, and grateful expectation. They are like David, who understood God's sovereignty, and so was a man of prayer, \_\_\_\_\_, and gratitude. David was more than a \_\_\_\_\_ through God who loved him.

*Psalm 18.29 For by You I can run against a troop, By my God I can leap over a wall. 30 As for God, His way is perfect; The word of the LORD is proven; He is a shield to all who trust in Him. 31 For who is God, except the LORD? And who is a rock, except our God? 32 It is God who arms me with strength, And makes my way perfect. 33 He makes my feet like the feet of deer, And sets me on my high places. 34 He teaches my hands to make war, So that my arms can bend a bow of bronze. 35 You have also given me the shield of Your salvation; Your right hand has held me up, Your gentleness [kindness, condescension] has made me great.*

\* **But what** about in times of weakness and failure? What did it look like for David to be more than a conqueror in that setting?

*Psalm 51.1 Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your lovingkindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, Blot out my transgressions ... 3 For I acknowledge my transgressions, And my sin is always before me ... 10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me. 11 Do not cast me away from Your presence, And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. 12 Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, And uphold me by Your generous Spirit.*

\* **What about** Peter in the NT — what do we learn from him in comparison with Judas?

*Mat 26.33 Peter ... said to Him, "Even if all are made to stumble because of You, I will never be made to stumble." 34 Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you that this night, before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." 35 Peter said to Him, "Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!" ...*

*Mat 10.33 "Whoever denies me before men, him I will also deny before my Father."*

*John 6.66 From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more. 67 Then Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you also want to go away?" 68 But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. 69 Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."*

The real difference between Peter and Judas is not in their sins or regret. The difference is the simple fact that Peter \_\_\_\_\_ to Christ, and Judas didn't. In the end, that's the only difference that \_\_\_\_\_. That's what it looks like for Peter, the Christ denier, to be more than a \_\_\_\_\_ even in the midst of his failings. That's also what it looks like for \_\_\_\_\_ to sustain him, not only in the midst of trial and failure, but also satanic assault.

*Luke 22.31 ... "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. 32 But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren."*

*Deut 30.19 I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live; 20 that you may love the LORD your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life ..."*