

"The Doctrine of Glorification"

Romans 8:14-8:39

Part 12

Introduction: Over the past weeks we have been talking about how God had an eternal purpose which existed long before the world began. That purpose was to have a bride for His Son and that bride would be made up of both Jews and Gentiles. The invitation would be proclaimed through the world and whosoever would accept Jesus Christ as their Savior would become a member of the bride/the church. Here in our study of chapter 8 we have looked at how God predestined that all who would come to Jesus Christ would be conformed into the image of Jesus Christ and God would work all things together for our god in order to accomplish that.

Notice Romans 8:28-29

Then to really drive the point home Paul revealed the unbreakable chain that is part of the lives of those who are members of the body of Jesus Christ.

Notice Romans 8:30

Herein is the unbreakable chain which applies to all who are of the church that is true believers.

Now when Paul wrote this, he anticipated that there would always be those who would say that you can somehow lose your salvation. There would be those who would deny the Truth revealed in Romans 8:1.

Romans 8:1

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus,

There were people in Paul's day who taught that a believer could lose their salvation. These very people made their way into the church at Galatia. Let me show you what Paul wrote to the believers at Galatia.

Galatians 3:1-3

O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?

² This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?

³ *Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?*

The legalists had made their way into the church at Galatia and were teaching that if the believers there did not keep the law of Moses and if they were not circumcised then they would lose their salvation.

Is it not the same in our day today? There are those who teach that GRACE and FAITH are not enough to keep us saved but we also need to live a certain way or keep a specific set of rules or not sin at all in order to stay saved.

Now if it were possible for a believer to lose his or her salvation then it would need to be by one of two ways. It would be because of a person or because of a situation. Last week in our study we looked at how Paul made it very clear that there is not one person or being that could ever take away our salvation because of 4 reasons:

1. Reason #1 - God is for us.

Notice Romans 8:31

In order for the chain of verse 30 to be broken there would need to be someone more powerful than God to defeat Him and break the chain. We know there is not anybody or being that can defeat God. God is for us and for that reason we are secure.

Psalm 27:1-3

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

² *When the wicked, even mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell.*

³ *Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident.*

2. Reason #2 - Jesus Christ died for us.

Notice Romans 8:32

When we were sinners and enemies of God, He gave His Son to die for us. If He gave the very BEST, He had then will He not also freely forgive us of every offense that we commit as His children?

3. Reason #3 - God has justified us.

Notice Romans 8:33

The Highest Judge of the universe has declared that we are justified/made righteous. There is no higher judge so there is not one person who can bring a condemning accusation against us. IN CHRIST we are justified.

Colossians 2:10

¹⁰ And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:

4. Reason #4 - Jesus Christ intercedes for us.

Notice Romans 8:34

Jesus is seated at the right hand of power and He intercedes daily as Satan brings our failures before God. Jesus is there to remind Satan that His blood paid for every sin.

This now brings us to where we are tonight.

I. The Application of Glorification

Romans 8:31-39

Part 3

Paul has just showed us that there is not anybody who can cause us to lose our salvation. Now he is going to show us that there is not any situations or experiences that can cause us to lose our salvation.

Notice Romans 8:35

The word "WHO" here can also be translated "WHAT". So, the question which Paul raises is, "What can separate us from the love of Christ?" To be separated from our Lord would be spiritual death for death is separation. The question then is, "What can cause us to die spiritually?" In John 10 Jesus made it very clear that this could never happen.

John 10:27-29

²⁷ *My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:*

²⁸ *And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.*

²⁹ *My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.*

Now before we look at the seven situations which Paul suggests let us first of all consider the love which God has for us.

John 17:20-23

²⁰ Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;

²¹ That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

²² And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:

²³ I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

God loves us just as much as He loves His Son.

Jeremiah 31:3

³ The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.

Jeremiah tells us that we are loved with an EVERLASTING LOVE.

So, Paul is asking what can separate us from this love. He is not talking about our love for Jesus, but it is His love for us that is in question. Then he gives us the seven suggestions. As he names these seven suggestions Paul shall show us that no situation or circumstance can separate us from the love of our Lord but instead of causing the worse it actually brings about the best in our lives.

Notice Romans 8:35 again.

Here then is the list:

1. **Tribulation** - This word refers to times of really intense pressure. It refers to troubles pressing upon someone from without, such as persecution, affliction, or tribulation.
2. **Distress** - This speaks of an inward pressure which comes upon the believer because of the outward tribulation.
3. **Persecution** - This means "to put to flight" or "to pursue with repeated acts of enmity". In our lives this would be dealing with something which you could not escape from that was threatening your life or your health.
4. **Famine** - This refers to being destitute of daily needs. It can be a famine of food or knowledge.
5. **Nakedness** - This is a lack of proper clothing with no way to get what is needed.

6. **Peril** - This refers to danger which we encounter.
7. **Sword** - This refers to death.

Now I want to raise a question here, "Why does Paul mention these things?" It is no doubt to show us that it is impossible to be separated from the love of our Lord, but I also see something else here.

When we live these experiences, it can cause us to question God's love for us. If we were to lend an ear to the prosperity gospel and then we experienced any of these difficulties, then we would almost assuredly reach the conclusion that God does not love us, or we would never go through these things. The prosperity gospel says that God loves us and never wants us to be without or to suffer with sickness or persecution. Remember Job's friends? They basically gave Job the idea that God did not love him and was instead angry with him.

Notice Romans 8:36

Now Paul quotes from Psalm 44:22 and as he does, he reveals something that all of us need to understand. Suffering is the lot which has been appointed to believers. Let me remind you what the writer of Hebrews wrote:

Hebrews 11:33-38

³³ Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions.

³⁴ Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.

³⁵ Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection:

³⁶ And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment:

³⁷ 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;

³⁸ (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

Peter understood that believers are not exempt from suffering.

1 Peter 4:12-13

¹² Beloved, **think it not strange** concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:

¹³ But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

Notice the words of an unknown writer:

"Difficulties are not necessarily obstacles for God's children, but His appointed way. Paul's quotation from Psalm 44 reminds believers that suffering has always been the lot of the godly, and therefore their own situation is not peculiar. Whereas the people of God in the OT were often perplexed about the reason for their trials, the saints of NT times can trace their sufferings back to identification with Christ and rejoice that they are counted worthy to suffer for his name."

Notice Romans 8:37

The sufferings of this life do not and cannot separate us from the love of Christ. Instead of having a negative effect on the believer the sufferings of life have a positive effect. Paul tells us we are more than conquerors and the idea is that we are more than conquerors because the sufferings of this life are part of the ALL THINGS which work together for our good. The sufferings are a tool in the hands of God to conform us into the image of Jesus Christ. Notice the words of Haldane on this verse:

"This is a strong expression, but in its fullest import it is strictly true. The Christian not only overcomes in the worst of his trials, but more than overcomes his adversaries, and all those things which seem to be against him. It is possible to overcome, and yet obtain no advantage from the contest, nay, to find the victory a loss. But the Christian not only vanquishes, he is also a gainer by the assault of his enemy. **It is better for him than if he had not been called to suffer.** He is a gainer and a conqueror, both in the immediate fruits of his sufferings, as God overrules them for his good, bringing him forth from the furnace as gold refined, and also in their final issue; for "our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory."

Let us notice that we are more than conquerors THROUGH HIM THAT LOVED US. It is through our Lord that we are given the strength to face the trials and the suffering. It is through our Lord that all things work together for our good. In all of this we can only say, "TO GOD BE THE GLORY."

Notice the words of Winslow on this thought.

"**Through Him that loved us.**" Here is the great secret of our victory, the source of our triumph. Behold the mystery explained, how a weak, timid believer, often starting at his

own shadow, is yet **"more than a conqueror"** over his many and mighty foes. To Christ who loved him, who gave Himself for him, who died in his stead, and lives to intercede on his behalf, the glory of the triumph is ascribed. And this is the song he chants: **"Thanks be to God, which gives us the victory, through our Lord Jesus Christ."** Through the conquest which He Himself obtained, through the grace which He imparts, through the strength which He inspires, through the intercession which he presents, in all our **"tribulation and distress, and persecution, and famine, and nakedness, and peril, and sword,"** we are **"more than conquerors."** Accounted though we are as **"sheep for the slaughter,"** yet our great Shepherd, Himself slain for the sheep, guides His flock, and has declared that no one shall pluck them out of His hand. We are more than conquerors, through His grace who loved us, in the very circumstances that threaten to overwhelm. Fear not, then, the darkest cloud, nor the proudest waves, nor the deepest needs—in these very things you shall, through Christ, prove triumphant."

Conclusion:

Let us now notice the doxology of all of this.

Notice Romans 8:38-39

There is no living being, person or angel, and no circumstance that can break the chain of Romans 8:30. Our glorification is secure and guaranteed. There is no possible way for the believer to die a spiritual death/be separated from our Lord.