



Romans 8 Pt. 9: Who can separate

Romans 8:35-39 *“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? 36 As it is written: “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered. 37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

I love it when a main character in a story gives a riveting statement. Let’s go team! Who is the team? Paul uses this chapter to promote Christ Jesus. He explains the Sovereign authority of God. Yet, weaved throughout this chapter is the Spirit. Thirty-one times (in the book of Romans) the Spirit is mentioned. Twenty-one times in chapter 8 alone. It is like Paul is promoting the Spirit as well. From the Law to Jesus: Paul is cheering them all on. He loves the Law. He loves the Spirit. Paul adores the Father in heaven. These last 5 verses has Paul’s heart leaping for Joy over the Trinity Lord.

Romans 8:1-2 *“Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, 2 because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.”* The last 5 verses have Paul still saying there is no condemnation. On

top of that he is boasting that nothing can separate us from the Love of God. It is possible that Jews recite Psalm 44:22 all the time. Verse 36 is said by Paul for a reason. Right after that statement Paul goes on a rant telling the readers that we are not condemned, separated, or lost to sin. No, in Christ Jesus we have life. I love it that in verse 37 he states that we are more than conquerors.

People love to say that these verses claim we are more powerful than demons and angels. They miss the point. Paul is telling the Jews that powerful demons and angels could not separate us from God. We cannot be hung out to dry by God or Jesus. Read Romans 8 a few times. Let it sink in. Paul says the Law could not save us. That we need Jesus. That we need the Spirit. Our bodies cannot save us. There is no way to live that will appease the Lord. Yet, nothing can separate us from the love of God.

Why does creation wait eagerly for our redemption? It is because if we are redeemed then creation will be redeemed. Revelation says there will be a new heaven and a new earth. Why is Paul saying go team? It is because he can see the finish line. Paul stated several times what the prize will be. It will be worth the wait. Yet, there is work to be done. Done with vigor and tenacity. He says in verse 38 "I am convinced." Let that sit with you. Paul was a Pharisee. A teacher and keeper of the Law of Moses. He knew all about God in the Old Testament. Yet, something has changed. Paul is excited and confident in what he has learned. The anticipation of the return of Christ.

One thing I cannot stand about current writing in our generation is timelines. Stories tend to jump all over the place without rhyme or reason. Verse 1 of Romans 8 says there is no condemnation (in Christ Jesus). Verse 39 says nothing can separate from the Love of God (in Christ Jesus). Do not miss the Christ part of that statement. The Jewish people were waiting for

the Christ. He was to be their savior from oppression. Yet, Paul goes way beyond oppression. Nothing can take us away from God. How? Because the Christ is Jesus. A more powerful Christ than you thought.

Imagine buying a house to keep you warm. It is way better than a cave or tent. What if your home also had hot water, electricity, and a central vacuum system. Wow, that would be a great house. It would be more than you expected. The Christ (to the Jew) was a redeemer from men. What if that same Christ was so much more. He could save you from death, man, and the Devil. What if he teaches, heals, and protects? The Pharisees probably condemned people for their actions. They probably painted God in an angry overbearing light. Paul is putting love, light, and compassion on Jesus. He is also putting power, majesty, and Lord on Jesus. We are not just saved from man. No, we are saved from everything.

Romans 8 was constructed to teach the Jews about their Christ. That Jesus is that savior that they have waited for. Yet, we all can learn from this chapter. The church has spent decades condemning people for all sorts of sins. We are the religious rulers in this narrative. The Law condemns but Jesus saves. The Spirit of the Law condemns but the Spirit of the Lord saves. Religion has tried to separate humans from the holy God. Yet, Jesus came to bring us to God. Jesus binds together what man has spent eternity trying to separate. Feeling shunned by the church: seek Jesus. Feeling shunned by humans: seek Jesus. Paul's final point is that nothing can separate us from the love of God. Nothing!