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**‘God’s Glorious Gospel: The Righteousness God Requires’**

**Message #51 – ‘Will He Always Love Us?’**

**January 22nd, 2017 Text: Rom. 8:35-37**

Keith M. Doyle, Lead Pastor – Winnetka Bible Church

**I. Summary:**

**1. Section #1: The Righteousness God Requires (Chap.1:1-3:20)**

* Romans 3:9-22 – **Summary:** Religious ‘Outsiders’ and ‘Insiders’ are all Under Sin (v.9)

Under Law (v.19); Under Pressure (v.20); Under God (v.21,22)

* **Theme: God's Holiness In Condemning Sin**

**2. Section #2: The Righteousness Christ Provides (Chap.3:21-6:23)**

* So if there is NO human solution (Chap.3-5) – God has a solution!
* **Theme: God’s Grace in Justifying Sinners**

**3. Section #3: The Righteousness the Spirit Produces (Chap.7:1-8:39)**

* This **new union** has a ‘new way’ of living, ***‘…new way of the Spirit’***…(7:6)
* A radical change – The Holy Spirit, ***‘those who live…set their minds on the things of the Spirit’***
* **Theme: God’s Power in Sanctifying Believers**

**4. Interrogative Question:**

* + ***Illus. John the Baptist, ‘Go back and report to John what you see…’ (Matt.11:4)***
  + ***How can we be sure God works all things together for good?***
* *Paul is giving a series of questions and assurances*
* *Pitted between Chapter 7 (sin) and Chapter 8 (suffering)*
* *God is working, calling, justifying, sanctifying*
* **Q.  *What assurance do I have that my faith will triumph through suffering?***

1. **The Tests of Loss, *‘…for your sake we are being killed (facing death) all the day long…’* (35,36)**
   1. **The 5Unanswerable Questions**
   * 3 times he throws down the ‘legal challenge’; 1 time ‘greater/lesser’ question

* If God is for us who can be against us? (31)
* If he didn’t spare Jesus will he withhold anything else? (32)
* Who can bring a charge against God’s chosen? (33)
* Who is it that condemns? (34)
  + ***‘Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?’*** (35)
  + Why would Paul raise ‘love’ in the context of suffering?
  1. **An Assortment of Affliction and Losses (7 things)**
  + It would seem to be ‘risky business’ to be a Christian!
  + **Trouble –** KJV, ‘tribulation’ – Latin word, ***‘tribulun’*** = ‘threshing sledge’**, Illus.** Ancient world grain harvest, ‘pressed out’ the grain
  + **Hardship – Gk. Word, *‘stenochoria’ –*** narrow and space (territory) = confined in a small, suffocating space **Illus.** Confined (closed in) by circumstances
  + **Persecution –** Pursued with an intent to harm. Active opposition from the enemies of the gospel. 1. They are normative; 2. They may come simply in opposition to Christ’s claims
  + **Famine -** There is no guarantee that Christians will be spared when there are food shortages – he is not saying that Christians will never be hungry or starve
  + **Nakedness –** poverty so severe that there is no money for clothes **Illus.** Mozambique
  + **Danger –** threats,brought simply for their faith
  + **Sword –** The furthest extremity…all out warfare **Illus.** Stephen’s martyrdom Acts 8

**And if not enough…**he quotes Ps. 44:22…

* 1. **Is Paul a ‘suffering spectator’ –** c/f 2 Cor. 11:23-29
  + *Paul’s trials…2 Cor.1:4-10*
  + **Illus.** Robert Haldane quote
  1. **Paul’s point: *Can these really hard things undo God’s work and God’s love?***

1. **The Triumph of Love, *‘No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us’* (37)** 
   1. **How do ‘sheep’ conquer…’in all things’?**
   * You must remain in His love…
   * Hang on a second, what is Paul saying? ***‘In all these things…’*** (37)
     + - * He is not: Encouraging the impulse of heroism, or the desire for adventure, or the courage of self-reliance, or the need to earn God's favor
         * In what things? The big 7
         * c/f The Beatitude test Matt.5; Rom 8:18, ***‘sufferings…’***
   1. **A Single compound verb: *‘hypernikomen’* = *‘We are more than conqueror’s’***
   * ***‘Hyper’*** = in place of/more than
   * Middle part – ‘***nike***, winged victory’; Put together: ‘Super conquerors…We Are…’
   1. **Apply:** So – how will God use ‘all things’ for the good of those who love Him? Including this assortment of afflictions?

* **The love of Christ does not remove the potential for suffering**
  + - * + Your love and obedience could lead too, ‘***We are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered’,*** but we have the assurance of v. 28
        + **Illus.** John the Baptist…
* **The love of Christ will always triumph** (none of these afflictions will ever separate us from His love)
  + - * + This assurance is rooted in appeal to faith in the triumphant love of God for us in Christ Jesus
        + Eternal reward and future hope
* **As we love God and live for His Kingdom**…**we overcome** (c/f Rev.12:7-11)
  + - * + *‘When we meet the enemy of affliction with the weapons of faith, the enemy is not just defeated, it is captured and made to serve the eternal good of the Christian warrior’* – John Piper

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