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

**Message # 52 – ‘Will He Always Love Us? - 2’**

**January 29th, 2017 Text: Rom. 8:38-39**

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)
* **Theme: God’s Power in Sanctifying Believers**

**4. Interrogative Question:**

* + ***Illus.*** *Paul knew of hard ‘goodbye’s’…Acts 20; The hardest things…separators…*
  + *Romans 8…starts with* ***‘No condemnation’****…ends with* ***‘No separation’!***
  + There is an ‘unbreakable’ tie that holds us to the love of Christ…here it is: **IT’S HIS LOVE FOR US!**
  + **Paul’s point: *Can any of these really tough struggles with sin or these really hard afflictions undo God’s work and God’s love?***
  + So…assuming two undeniable realities: my failures with sin…and the guarantee of

suffering**…**

* ***Is there any assurance that my faith will survive?***

* + **My aim is to show you what Paul says about the nature of God’s love for us in Christ…**

1. **God’s Relentless Love, *‘…nor anything else in all creation…to separate us from the love of God… ’* (37-39)**
   1. **The 5Unanswerable Questions**
   * 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)***
   1. **A guarantee of suffering (c/f 8:17,18)**
   * The ‘range’/possibilities were clear in 7 words (35)
   * **Paul’s point: *Can these really hard things undo God’s work and God’s love?***
   1. **Paul describes possible ‘separator’s’…**
   * ***Illus.*** *Arguments, objective (v.31-34) and testimonies, subjective (35-39)…*
   * ***‘Death nor life’* = Illus.** The hardest things…The separator becomes the uniter (Maclaren); Life can separate…some of its good…some of it’s just hard…hard and good
   * Contrasting pairs…
   * ***‘Angels nor rulers’* =** none of the ‘disrupters’ will succeed; Our confidence (c/f Col.2:13-15)
   * ***‘things present or things to come’ =*** ‘Time itself’ is powerless against God’s love (Boice)

* Nothing in this life and nothing in space (‘cosmic)’ we may face in our future life…
  + ***‘nor powers’* =** supernatural or miraculous force
  + ***‘nor height nor depth’* =** astrology words, (c/f Ps.139:7-10) captures it
  + ***‘nor anything else in all creation’* =** Catch all…anything else you’d like to come up with!
* **Apply:** There are no ‘if’ ‘and’s’ or ‘but’s’ left…c/f Heb.13:6

1. **God’s Renewing Love, *‘For I am sure…will be able to separate us from the love of God…’’* (39)** 
   1. **A Certainty**
   * ***‘I am sure…’*** *=* Gk word,***‘peitho’*** =to be ‘moved’, convinced,Paul is fully ‘persuaded’
   * *.’****…nor anything’ –*** nothing is left!
   * His certainty is centered in the cross (v.37)

* **Apply:** *‘Who can separate me from my love for Jesus?’* – **Answer:** Almost anything
  + ***‘Which is in Christ Jesus our Lord’*** *=* A love that went to the cross, a love that endured unmitigated wrath, a love that bore injustice, a love that sacrificed
  + *His love for me is* ***unending*** *and* ***unquenchable*** *and* ***irrevocable***
* **Apply:** Stumblers, wanderers, sufferers! Know this!
  1. **A Comfort**
  + A ‘Fuel/fountain’ for live and serve by **Apply:** Not my ‘striving’ alone, reservoir
  + Nothing means nothing (c/f John 10:27,28)
  + **Watkinson wrote:**
* *Let me no more my comfort draw, From my frail hold of Thee;  
  In this alone rejoice with awe,— Thy mighty grasp of me.*

*Thy purpose of eternal good, Let me but surely know;*

*On this I’ll lean, let changing mood; And feeling come and go:*

*Glad when Thy sunshine fills my soul, Nor lorn when clouds o’ercast,*

*Since Thou within Thy sure control, Of love dost hold me fast.*

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