



“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?” (Romans 8:35 - NIV)

Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, You reveal Your mighty power in showing mercy and kindness. Grant me the full measure of Your grace as a recipient of Your promises through faith in Christ Jesus my Savior from sin. Help me to continue to keep my eyes focused on Jesus and the heavenly prize which He has won for me on the cross of Calvary. This and all my prayers I ask through Your Son Jesus Christ my Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. AMEN



Order of Worship – The Common Service Without L.S. – pg. 15

-Greetings by the Pastor

- Invocation (Liturgy pg. 15)

Opening Hymn **C.W. 226 vs. 1-6 / TLH 2**

- Confession of Sins

- Absolution

- Prayer and Praise (pg. 16)

- Prayer of The Day (pg. 17)

First Lesson – Isaiah 55:1-11 – Buy - Without Cost.

PSALM OF THE DAY Psalm 42-43 (Lit. pg. 82 – Sung by Cantor)

Second Lesson – Romans 8:35-39 – More Than Conquers.

Gospel Lesson – Matthew 14:13-21 – Jesus Feeds 5,000.

The Apostle’s Creed – (Pg. 19)

Sermon Hymn: **C.W. 445 / TLH 372**

Sermon Text: Romans 8:35

Sermon Theme: What Can Separate Me from the Love of Christ?

"Create in Me" – (pg. 20)

Offering (The plates will not be passed but are at the entrance doors)

Offering Prayer

Prayer of The Church

Lord’s Prayer (Traditional Version)

Hymn **C.W. 419 vs. 1; 6-7 / TLH 528**

Collect / Prayer (pg. 25)

Benediction

Hymn **C.W. 226 vs. 7 / TLH 2**

As You Leave the Church Building You are Entering the Mission Field.

SERMON TEXT: Romans 8:35

Vs. 35 – Who shall separate – Χωριζω – us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?

GREETING: Grace and peace to you from Him Who is, and Who was, and Who is to come, and from the seven spirits before His throne, and from Jesus Christ, Who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.” (Rev. 1:4b-5a)

Does anyone here like Ice-Cream?

When the power goes out, thus causing the freezer to begin to thaw, how long does it take for the Ice-Cream to melt?

When the deep freeze is separated from electricity for an extended period of time, not only does the Ice-Cream melt, but the meat can thaw out and spoil.

How long can you be separated from God before you melt and spoil? Before you fall away from Him?

As God reveals to us in Scripture, without God, we do not even exist, because God has made all things, including us. (Hebrews 2:10; Romans 11:34-36; Colossians 1:16; Genesis 1:1) **Hebrews 2:10 – “In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for Whom and through Whom everything exists,”**

Today in this section from the Apostle Paul’s Letter to the Romans, God through Paul asks the question:

“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?”

As we look at this question, it is fitting to remember that as Paul wrote this letter, Nero was the Roman Emperor of Rome from 54 - 68 A.D.

You will remember that Nero had his mother – Agrippina – put to death as well as his wife Octavia and his foster brother – Britannicus.

Nero then blamed the Christians for the fire in Rome in 64 A.D. and as a result, many Christians were sent to the Coliseum to be killed by lions.

The Believers in Christ, who were living in Rome could have wondered at times, if God loved them.

How many of them asked, “If Jesus loved me so much, why is He allowing this persecution to happen?”

And it is to thoughts such as these that God, through the Apostle Paul, goes right to the heart of the matter, and in this section of Romans chapter eight the Apostle gives a list of things that basically encompass everything that might lead the Christians to think that “God does not Love me”.

The list that is given includes:

Vs. 35b - Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?

The Apostle Paul expanded on this list in the following verses:

Vs. 38 – For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers,

Vs. 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.

Have you asked yourself recently or in times past: “Does God love me?”

As you see the events happening in our World have you asked the question: “Where is God’s Love?”

As we practice *Social Distancing*, we may feel alone and all the more tempted to doubt the Love of God.

God, through the Apostle Paul makes it very clear that hardship will be a part of the life of a Christian, and so we ought not be surprised whether that hardship is physical hardship or emotional hardship or financial hardship.

As the Apostle Paul lists these things, he is pointing out that they will be part of the life of a Christian.

And so why be surprised when troubles come?

The Apostle Paul also quotes the Psalmist in this section, thus demonstrating that troubles came even to the Old Testament believers:

Vs. 36 – As it is written: (Psalm 44:22) - For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.

Some of the hardships that Old Testament believers endured are listed in the book of Hebrews chapter eleven “*Hero’s of the Faith*”.

Hebrews 11: 31-38 - 31 By faith Rahab the harlot did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given friendly welcome to the spies. 32 And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets--33 who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, 34 quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. 35 Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. 36 Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. 37 They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated-- 38 of whom the world was not worthy--wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. (RSV)

It is a fact, that Christians will endure hardship. It is also a fact that Jesus Christ has defeated death and the devil and made full payment for the sin of all people for all time.

The Holy Scriptures demonstrate again and again that Jesus has indeed risen from the dead and made full payment for the sin of the World. (John 3:16; I John 2:1-2; I Peter 3:18-19; Romans 3:21-24; Matthew 28:1-10; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-53; John 20:1-30)

Christ Jesus has indeed risen from the dead, and won heaven for you.
We cannot put Jesus back into the grave (Except in our own mind).
The Work of Salvation is complete in Christ Jesus our Lord.

God does however warn us against rejecting this Love of God in Christ Jesus.

To reject God's love has eternal consequences. **“He that Believes and is baptized shall be saved, but whoever does not believe shall be condemned.”** (Mark 16:16)

Earlier in chapter 8 of Romans, God through the Apostle Paul states: **“And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does NOT belong to Christ.”** (Romans 8:9)

In the O.T. we learn of a man named King Saul. He began as king of Israel, chosen by God, but by the end of Saul's life, he was seeking advice, NOT from God, BUT from the witch of Endor. (I Samuel 28:1-25)

To keep the Ice-Cream from melting, it is important to keep it in a freezer that has electricity and is working.

As Believers in Christ Jesus. It is important to stay connected to the Word of God through personal Bible Study and Joint Public Worship because the Word of God Creates faith, Strengthens faith and continually reminds us that NOTHING in ALL CREATION is able to separate us from the Love of God in Christ Jesus our Risen Savior. AMEN

THEME: What can separate us / me from the Love of Christ?