

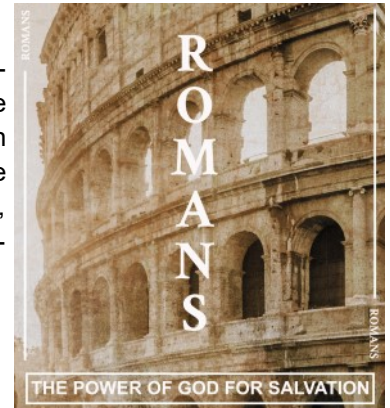
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Message Notes | 03/16/2025

Saved and Secure?

Romans 8:35-39

³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded 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 sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.



Is Salvation Safe and Secure?

- **The Case Against It (Vss.35&36)**

- **The Case Against *this Case* (Vs.37)**

- **The Conviction of Assurance (Vs.38&39)**

Some Questions:

- 1) What about "free will"?

- 2) What about those *other* passages?

- 3) What about those who fall away?

- 4) What if persecution comes?

Romans 8:35-39

Discussion Questions

Getting Started – Give some examples of how you keep your things safe? (e.g., hiding money in a sock, using trackers, or carrying a fanny pack!)

Digging Deeper (Read Romans 8:35-39)

- 1. The Question about Security:** Paul asks in verse 35, “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?” How would you paraphrase the question he’s asking? Have you ever struggled with this question?

- 2. The Best Case for Losing “It”**
 - a) Paul lists several threats to our salvation. Discuss what each one in verses 35&36 might be referring to.

 - b) Some argue that while nothing external can take us from Christ, these pressures could entice us to choose (of our own free will) to walk away from Christ. And this is how we could lose our salvation. “We can separate ourselves from Christ with our own free will.” What are some reasons this may seem reasonable?

- 3. A Worse-Case Scenario** - In our passage we are given a worst-case scenario: Christians being subjected to terrible things to get them to defect from Jesus. Pastor Jake said that this scenario undermines the idea that our choice and love of God are the ultimate source of security in Christ. Here are four reasons. Discuss them.
 - a) If our security is ultimately based on our own will and resolve, chances are, most of us would end up denying Jesus. Therefore, most of us would lose our salvation. As a group, discuss scenarios you think would take you past your will power to stay true.

 - b) Paul’s incredible optimism that all believers would be “super conquerors” in these terrible circumstances would be wrong.

 - c) Paul would have no good reason in verses 38&39 to be “persuaded that... nothing will be able to separate us from the love of God.”

 - d) What Paul lists in verses 38&39 seems also to include a Christian being worn down by suffering to the point of wanting to give up.

- 4.** When Paul raises the question of a believer’s security starting in verse 35, how many times does he reference our love and resolve? How many times God’s love and resolve? Compare this with John 6:37-39 and 10:27-30. What does this tell you?

5. On Sunday, we looked at some questions this topic raises. As a group discuss what these questions are asking, how they were answered, and how you might answer them.
- a) What about free will?
 - b) What about passages that suggest Christians can lose their salvation?
 - c) What about people who seem to walk away and renounce their faith?
 - d) How can we be sure we would stay true in times of terrible persecution?

Making It Real

- Reflect on the assurance of salvation. Do you live in confidence of God's love, or do you struggle with doubts?
- How can you encourage someone this week who might be questioning their security in Christ?
- Spend time in prayer, thanking God for His unwavering love and asking Him to strengthen your faith in times of trial.

Resources

Romans: Righteousness from Heaven | R. Kent Hughes

www.blueletterbible.org

www.biblehub.com

www.preceptaustin.org