

Sermon Title: Victoriously Secured by the Eternal Love of God, Part 2b

Sermon Text: Romans 8:38-39

Sermon Purpose: To call the hearer to celebrate in worshipful enthusiasm the blessed security of the true believer.

Sermon Proposition: There are 3 factual testimonies that produces worship for security of believers.

- I. The testimony of Paul. V.38a
- II. The testimony of the Trinity. V.38b-39
- III. The testimony of the love of God. V.39

Introduction: This chapter closes with a beautiful summary of what has just been said. The gift of salvation initiated by the Father, carried out by the Son, maintained by the Spirit, and experienced by every true believer, is the greatest, most mesmerizing jewel of the Christian faith. It is secured in the impenetrable vault of the Father and Son's love.

I. The testimony of Paul. V.38a

The Apostle assures his readers that he was not teaching them anything which he himself was not fully convinced. He was convinced first of all because of the nature of salvation, which God the Father revealed to him and which he presents so clearly in these first eight chapters. Secondly, his counsel is also a result of personal testimony. He was convinced because he had experienced most of the things mentioned and they did not separate him from Christ.

2 Timothy 1:12 For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.

II. The testimony of the Trinity. V.38b-39

There are other hindrances that someone may try to come up with, that may not have been taken into consideration.

A. The first hindrances are death and life. V.38b

1. Death - in our earthly life, we experience death last. Even the supreme enemy of mankind cannot separate us from the love of God, because Christ has changed deaths sting from pain to glory, from defeat to victory. (**1 Corinthians 15:51-57**)
Psalms 116:15 Precious in the sight of the LORD *is* the death of His saints.
Psalms 23:4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You *are* with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.
2 Corinthians 5:8 We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.
2. Life – Life doesn't appear on the surface to fit as a hindrance, but when we realize, that in our present earthly life that spiritual danger, temptations, traps, and enemies lay all around us.
 1. Creative things (**8:35**)
 2. False teachers
2 Peter 2:1-3 But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, *and* bring on themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber.

3. The world system and values

1 John 2:15-17 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that *is* in the world-- the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life-- is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

B. The 2nd hindrances are angels and principalities and powers. V.38c

1. **Angels** – refers very often in Scriptures to the holy angels.

Galatians 1:8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.

2. **principalities** – refers often to the fallen angels, specifically demons in Scripture. Like the Greek term (arche) behind it, principalities indicates neither good nor evil. But the obvious negative use of arche in such passages as Ephesians 6:12 (“rulers”), Colossians 2:15 (“rulers”), and Jude 6 (“own domain”) – as well as its apparent contract with the term that proceeds it here (angels), therefore the text seems to imply fallen angels. No supernatural being, good or evil, shall separate us from the love of God.

3. **powers** – translated (dynamis), the ordinary Greek word for power. But in its plural form, as here, it often refers to miracles or mighty deeds. It is also used frequently of persons in position of authority and power. Powers represents another obstacle that true believers need not fear.

C. The 3rd hindrances are things **present** or things to **come**. V.38d

This statement simply represents everything we are experiencing and yet to experience.

D. The 4th hindrances are **height** or **depth**. V.39a

Paul may have used height and depth as astrological terms that were familiar in his day, hupsoma (height) referring to the high point, or zenith, of a star’s path, and bathos (depth) to its lowest point. If so, the idea is that Christ’s love secures a believer from the beginning to the end of life’s path. Space that has no end could be in mind here. The basic idea is that of totality.

E. The 5th hindrances is any **created** thing. V.39b

To leave no doubt about the totality of the believer’s security, is the all-encompassing category. Since God is the only non-created thing or being, everything else, and everyone else is included as an obstacle, hindrance, or threat.

Colossians 1:15-18 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

III. The testimony of the love of **God**. V.39

Romans 3:10-12 As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one; There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one."

John 17:21-24 "that they all may be one, as You, Father, *are* in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. "And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: "I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me. "Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.