

## Keynotes from Pastor Tim's am YouTube Sermon on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2020

### Eternal Security in an insecure world.

(Please read these notes whilst watching or listening to the sermon)

#### **Reading:- Romans 8 verses 28-39**

We are now facing the danger of Covid 19, but every generation has had to face crises of some sort. Every generation has lived in a world that is insecure in some way so the pandemic we are going through may be new, but the insecurity it has brought isn't. Whatever crisis we face, we need to fix our minds on something that will bring security and peace to our hearts and souls.

**Romans 8** is a chapter that speaks to us about the security of being held by God forever. We can know that our souls are safe for all eternity when we are trusting in Jesus. The chapter starts with no condemnation (**v1**) and ends with no separation (**vv 38-39**).

- **v1** There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.
- **vv 38-39** For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup> 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.

**Everything in between is designed by the Lord Jesus Christ to assure the Christian believer of our eternal security.**

- Dr Martin Lloyd Jones got to the heart of Romans 8, when he gave his writings on it the title 'The Final Perseverance of the Saints.'
- Romans 8 is given to us by the Lord of the church, through his apostle Paul, to give the Christian believer full assurance of his eternal security.

We read about God's eternal love for us in **vv 35-9** Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? <sup>36</sup> As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." <sup>37</sup> No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup> For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor

angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup> 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.

Here are two truths to consider:

### 1) The foundation under our future glorification

The foundation under our salvation from sin is **not** based on the following:

- **our** response to the good news that Jesus lived and died to make us right with God, **our** faith in Jesus, or **our** obedience and continual good works.

If those were the foundation, then what if:

- our response wasn't real, our faith waivers or we don't do enough good works?

**We find the true foundation in vv 29-30** For those whom **he foreknew** he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. <sup>30</sup> And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

- It is **God's foreknowledge** that starts the sequence that ends with our glorification. In the Bible foreknowledge generally refers to God entering into a relationship with someone ahead of time.
- The foundation of our glorification is the decision of the sovereign and unchanging God to enter into a relationship with us. God doesn't change his mind.
- Paul is seeking to assure us that God has a plan that will lead to our glorification – a plan that is so certain that he speaks of our glorification as having already happened (v30).

**That only makes sense if it rests on the foundation of God's sovereign choice of his people, not on the uncertainty of my faith or my obedience.**

Why would a holy God choose to enter into relationship with sinful people? Only because of the second truth:

### 2) The eternal love of God for us.

The reason a holy God enters into a relationship with sinful people is because of his love for them – a love rooted in eternity past. Many will question God's love at this time of crisis, when he could stop Covid 19 at any time, but we are shown the proof that God loves us in **v32** He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

- God has given us his most precious possession – his only Son, who he loves and delights in.

The text tells us he did not spare him. What does that mean for us?

- He did not spare him the eternal punishment **our** sin deserves.
- The essence of sin is loving and serving anything more than God and we are all guilty of this.
- God is a just and holy God and must punish sin with eternal separation from him in Hell.

**However, Jesus becomes the substitute for those who trust in God, standing in the place of sinners and taking on himself the just anger of a holy God for us.**

- When God the Son agreed to take our place, it meant God the Father couldn't spare him from that just anger. In the person of his own Son, he satisfied his own justice so that he could forgive us and make us right with himself.

**That's how much God loves you. The cross of Christ is where we see God's love supremely in action.**

- The foundation under the foreknowledge of God is his eternal love for us. If his love changed or ceased then we would be lost forever.

Our eternal security depends on him loving us - is it possible that God's love could change or that we could do something that would make him love us less or even not at all?

- **v35** answers this: Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?
- Crises are a regular part of Christian experience, as Paul shows us from **Psalm 44** – a lament showing us that God's people even then could not make sense of the suffering they were undergoing.

We may wonder if suffering is a sign that God has stopped loving us but Paul tells us that the answer is **no** and goes on to show us that these things all work for our good. **v37 No**, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

- We are more than conquerors because not only do we come through the crisis but it works for our good. **v28** And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

- This is a chapter about security and **we can know** that the crisis works for our good, as we see in **Romans 5:3** More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, **knowing** that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup> and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup> and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.
- Crises in our lives are not a sign that God doesn't love us.
- Paul shows us in **vv38-39** that nothing can separate us from God's love – indeed he is absolutely certain about this, starting by saying For I am **sure**.....

**Our salvation, and our future glorification, has a secure foundation because it rests on God's foreknowledge of us (his sovereign choice of us) which in turn rests on God's unchanging and unceasing love for us.**

Does that mean we can live as we please and still expect God to take us to glory? No.

- If you are living to the flesh, you need to repent of your sin and seek God's mercy.
- A person for whom this sermon is true will show evidence that they are loved by God – they will love him in return, and that will show in ever-increasing obedience.

**Our eternal security does not rest in anything we can do – it rests in the sovereign choice of God and his eternal love for us.**

We need to know that love, not just as intellectual truth, but as a deep principle in our soul that guards our heart from fear.

- When a crisis comes, can we say with Paul I am **sure** that nothing can separate me from the love of God in Christ Jesus?

If not, then make the prayer in **Ephesians 3:16-19** your prayer:

<sup>16</sup> that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, <sup>17</sup> so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, <sup>18</sup> may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, <sup>19</sup> and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.