

THE BOOK OF ROMANS
"Biblical Peresuasion"
Romans 8:38, 39

Aug 24, 1986

INTRODUCTION

1. This section was a favorite of Robert Bruce (1554-1631) who died in Kinnaird, July 27, 1631. After breakfast, he asked his daughter to "set my finger on these words; God be with you, my children. I have breakfasted with you, and shall sup with my Lord Jesus this night. I die believing in these words."
2. Here is the continuing conviction of the Spirit in response to the fifth question of vv. 31-35: 1) What shall we say? (v. 31). 2) How shall He not? (v. 32). 3) Who shall lay? (v. 33). 4) Who is he that condemns? (v. 34). 5) Who shall separate? (v. 35).
3. Note the connection between Gen. 3 and Rom. 8:31-35): 1) Adam and Eve had guilt. We have none because of God's justification (v. 33). 2) Adam and Eve were condemned. We have none because of Christ's redemption (v. 34). 3) Adam and Eve had separation. We have none because of God's love (v. 35).
4. The three previous verses note a comprehensive list of perils in the material world which cannot separate us from the love of Christ. Now here is a comprehensive list of perils in the immaterial world which cannot separate us from the love of Christ. Now study these verses to see God's unfailing faithfulness and love.

1. PERSUASION

a. Introduced

The verb of persuasion is preceded by a typical expression of this chapter--"for." The term occurs 15x in this chapter and this is the last one. It speaks of Paul's clear logic.

b. Stated

The perfect tense of the verb means I have been and am persuaded. He actually stood that way. This certainty must not be diluted. It is like the phrase "I reckon" (cf. 8:18; 14:14; 15:14). Agrippa used the same verb (Acts 26:28, 29). Paul had a strong rock-like belief (2 Tim. 1:12). Oh, to stand firm, fixed, stayed in the Word of God (cf. Psa. 130:5).

2. PARAMETERS

There are four pairs and two single items listed by Paul which cannot separate from God's love in Christ.

a. Changes of condition

This includes death and life. The one notes

fear of loneliness while the other considers afflictions. Thus, dying or living believers are the objects of God's love.

b. Orders of being

This includes angels, principalities, (and powers). The hierarchy suggested by these terms is real. Angels is a generic term; principalities refers to angelic beings who govern; powers to those who exercise supremacy (cf. others not mentioned here, but elsewhere in Scripture: thrones are those who sit on them; dominions to those who rule; authorities to those invested with imperial responsibility). For these varied classes of angels see 1 Cor. 15:24; Eph. 1:21; 3:10; 6:12; Col. 1:16; 2:15.

c. Possibilities of time

This includes things present and things to come. This sums up all the measureless dimensions of time. It also includes all events within these dimensions.

d. Everything in space

This includes height and depth which are the limitless proportions of space. Varied suggestions are extant respecting the specific meaning of these terms such as heaven/hell; heaven/earth; happiness/unhappiness; honor/shame; lofty/lowly.

e. All of creation

The use of "other" suggests any other kind of creation or any other mode of being, besides those just enumerated. It is one sweeping phrase.

3. PROTECTION

It is the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord from which nothing immaterial or created can amputate. This phrase is an expansion of an earlier statement (v.35). God the Father is the original fountain; Christ is the mediating channel so that in Christ is the love of God, and the love of God is the love of God in Christ. Since God is above every created being/thing, and this love is ours, the demonstration of the security of the believer is completed.

CONCLUSION Romans 1:16 states the Gospel is God's power to save. It could not be this if anything could separate us from God's love in Christ. All is in Christ (cf. 4:24; 5:21; 6:23; 7:25; here)!