

Your Identity in Christ 5

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.

Background on Romans

- Written around 56-60 AD by the Apostle Paul

Overview of Paul's Life and Journey

- Saul Becomes Paul
 - Acts 9:15-16 – ...he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. 16 For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.
- In Damascus
 - Acts 9:23 - ...the Jews plotted to kill him
- In Jerusalem
 - Acts 9:26 - And when he had come to Jerusalem, he attempted to join the disciples. And they were all afraid of him, for they did not believe that he was a disciple.
 - Acts 9: 29 - And he spoke and disputed against the Hellenists. But they were seeking to kill him.
- Paul's 1st Missionary Journey (Acts 13-14)
 - Cyprus
 - A Jewish magician (Elymas) "opposed" their evangelism efforts (Acts 13:8)
 - Antioch in Pisidia
 - Acts 13:45 – ...[the Jews] were filled with jealousy and began to contradict what was spoken by Paul, reviling him
 - Acts 13:50 - ...the Jews incited the devout women of high standing and the leading men of the city, stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and drove them out of their district.
 - Iconium
 - Acts 14:2 - ...the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brothers.
 - Acts 14:5 - ... an attempt was made by both Gentiles and Jews, with their rulers, to mistreat them and to stone them...
 - Lystra
 - Acts 14:19 - ...Jews came from Antioch and Iconium, and having persuaded the crowds, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing that he was dead.
 - Galatians 6:17 - From now on let no one cause me trouble, for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus.
 - The Return Trip
 - Acts 14:22 – ...[The were] strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.
- Paul's 2nd Missionary Journey (Acts 16-18)
 - Philippi
 - Acts 16:19 - ...they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the rulers.

less one. 25 Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea; 26 on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers; 27 in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. 28 And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches.

- Greece and the Return Trip
 - Acts 20:3 - There he spent three months, and when a plot was made against him by the Jews as he was about to set sail for Syria, he decided to return through Macedonia.
 - Paul spent some time in Corinth, which is where he wrote the book of Romans

We Are More Than Conquerors

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- “more than conquerors” = hupernikao = huper (where we get our words hyper, super) + nikao (The Greek goddess of victory, Nike, got her name from this word)
 - Hupernikao = to be completely and overwhelmingly victorious... to thoroughly conquer, going beyond mere conquest... to overpower in victory
 - Other Translations:
 - NASB: “we overwhelmingly conquer”
 - NLT: “overwhelming victory is ours”
 - Good News Translation: “we have complete victory”
 - International Standard Version: “we are triumphantly victorious”
 - Bill Mounce: “in all these things we are winning a most glorious victory”
 - Psalm 91:7 - A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you.
- Given where Paul has been up to this point, it seems odd that he would say he is “more than a conqueror.” What’s the deal?

How Did Paul Overwhelmingly Conquer?

- 1. He’s Not Dead Yet... He Hasn’t Given Up
- 2. He’s Loved by God
 - Romans 8:35 - Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?
 - Tribulation = from latin tribulum = a spiked log that was dragged across the ground to break it up before plowing
 - Greek thlipsis = lit. “pressure”... used of a narrow place that hems someone in
 - The internal pressure that causes someone to feel confined, as if there’s no way of escape
 - Distress = stenochoria = the external circumstances that hem you in, causing the internal pressure
 - Persecution = diogmos = lit. means hunting someone like an animal, in order to catch them and punish them for their convictions
 - Famine = lit. hunger...
 - Paul mentioned dealing with hunger at least 3 times in his letters.

- Nakedness = In 2 Corinthians 11, this word is translated “exposure,” as in “exposure to the elements.”
 - Danger = Paul’s life left him in constant danger from all angles
 - Sword = machaira = a short sword or dagger... the word “machete” comes from this sword
 - Romans 8:38-39 - 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.
 - “I am sure” = other translations: I am persuaded / I am convinced / I am certain
 - Passive tense: Paul isn’t saying “I persuade myself” or “Peter’s preaching persuaded me.” He is persuaded by the merit of the facts themselves.
 - All the things that can’t separate us from God’s love:
 - Neither Death nor Life
 - Nor Angels nor Rulers
 - Nor Things Present nor Things to Come
 - Nor Powers
 - Nor Height nor Depth
 - Nor Anything Else in All Creation
- 3. Though Paul Suffered Personally, God’s Kingdom was Laying Waste to the Enemy’s Domain
 - 2 Timothy 3:11 - ...from them all the Lord rescued me
 - Paul’s Journeys
 - Acts 13:42 - ...the people begged that these things might be told them the next Sabbath.
 - Acts 13:44 - ...almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord.
 - Acts 13:48 – [the Gentiles] began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord...
 - Acts 13:49 - ...the word of the Lord was spreading throughout the whole region.
 - Acts 14:1 - ...a great number of both Jews and Greeks believed.
 - Acts 14:27 – [God] had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles
 - Acts 15:12 - ...all the assembly fell silent, and they listened to Barnabas and Paul as they related what signs and wonders God had done through them among the Gentiles.
 - Acts 16:5 - ...the churches... increased in numbers daily.
 - Acts 17:4 - And some of [the Jews] were persuaded... as did a great many of the devout Greeks and not a few of the leading women.
 - Acts 17:12 - Many of [the Jews]... believed, [and] not a few Greek women of high standing as well as men.
 - Acts 17:34 - But some men joined [Paul] and believed, among whom also were Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris and others with them.
 - Acts 18:8 - Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed in the Lord, together with his entire household. And many of the Corinthians... believed and were baptized.
 - Acts 19:10 - ... all the residents of Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks.
 - Acts 19:17 – [What God was doing] became known to all the residents of Ephesus, both Jews and Greeks. And fear fell upon them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was extolled
 - Acts 19:20 - So the word of the Lord continued to increase and prevail mightily.
 - Acts 19:26 - ... not only in Ephesus but in almost all of Asia... Paul has persuaded and turned away a great many people [from pagan idols]