

The 18th Sunday after Pentecost ~ Sunday, October 1, 2023

“Life in the Spirit: Nothing! Hallelujah!”

Romans 8:35-39

“Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, ‘For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.’ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that 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, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

(Romans 8:35-39)

Verses 35-39 are a fitting end to this remarkable chapter because they’re not just a doctrinal _____ or an ethical exhortation, but instead dwell on the _____ of the love of God in Christ for each one of us who are His children.

Christ’s love is _____. Our eternal security in the love of Jesus is the immovable _____ of our assurance forever.

Paul isn’t content with the love of Christ being simply a _____ or data factored into our thinking. He wants _____ in our hearts that will match our _____. He wants us to feel, taste, and revel in the love of Christ. This is why he writes so enthusiastically in these verses. This isn’t bare, wooden prose, but rather _____—a song of praise.

THE FOUR DIMENSIONS OF CHRIST’S LOVE

#1. The _____ of Christ’s love.

Love isn’t usually associated with down-to-earth _____.

However, we need to _____ this modern notion, especially when it comes to understanding the Bible’s teaching about the love of Christ for His people.

Knowing Jesus’ love isn’t about _____ reality into a warm, intoxicating soup of endorphins. The love of Christ is a _____ love.

Tribulation = *thlip-sis* = carries the idea of extreme _____. This is

_____ trouble—the crushing weight of difficult days, bearing down on our shoulders.

Distress = pressure from _____. This word highlights the emotional trauma caused by adverse _____ beyond our power to change.

Persecution = _____ caused by others, especially because of _____ in Jesus.

In verse 36, Paul quotes Psalm 44 in order to highlight the _____ of suffering, especially the in hands of a hostile world in opposition to the _____ of God.

When Paul talks about Christ’s love, he’s not inviting us to engage in some delusional _____, or some exercise in make believe, wish fulfilment, or escapism. He’s not papering over the _____ in our lives. He’s not running away from the ugly, open wounds festering in our hearts. He’s _____ it all head on.

Not only do we not _____ the love of Christ, but in fact “in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.” (P)

More than conquerors = *huper-ni-komen* =

If we are the object of the saving love of Christ, we win an _____ and complete victory. It’s not even _____.

For those who are in Christ, the trying circumstances of our lives become the _____ between us and the great enemies of our souls.

The enemy seeks in every adverse circumstance to take the opportunity to do everything he can to _____ our faith and to undermine our assurance. Every sorrow and every suffering brings its own unique _____, which the enemy will try to use against us.

However, verse 37 teaches us that while our trials, struggles, sorrows, and losses may be the battleground, the love of Christ has already _____ our enemy, and so we’re not in any danger of losing.

When the work is over at last and we’re finally _____ in heaven with Jesus, I believe that we’ll look back over those moments in our own lives when the battle raged hottest and when our sufferings were most acute, and we’ll see with new eyes the ways that the Lord _____ us, held us fast, and didn’t let us

go.

The promise isn't that we'll always feel _____ and carefree, no matter what our circumstances. The promise is that if the love of Christ rests on us while the spiritual war is raging in our hearts, nothing can _____ us in the end. Jesus will _____ us fast.

#2. The _____ of Christ's love.

Paul isn't writing purely in the _____, and his words aren't just theoretical possibilities that he throws out for our consideration. He's offering personal _____ here.

He's speaking out of the depths of his own _____, shaped and moulded by personal _____.

“For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.” (2 Corinthians 12:10)

When Paul tells the Romans that the love of Christ can't be _____, when he insists that we're secure and safe in the arms of Jesus' love, no matter what our present sufferings, he himself is walking, talking _____ of that fact.

This is actually a part of God's _____ in allowing trials to come into our lives and then sustaining us and making us more than conquerors in them; so that, like Paul, we in turn can be _____ in His hand in the support of others in their trials.

Our sufferings and the lessons that they teach us about Christ's infinite sufficiency are great ministry _____ and we must not neglect to use them.

#3. The _____ of Christ's love.

In verse 35 & 39, it's very clear that the love of God and the love of Christ is a fixed, stable, eternal, everlasting and enduring, _____ reality. That's the overwhelming emphasis of the passage. Jesus, who has loved us from eternity, will love us to _____ and nothing can change it.

Paul has a specific, _____ moment in history in mind when the love of Christ was poured out for us in a particular and unique way: the _____.

When Paul describes how no trial, no suffering, no pain can break the grip of Christ's love on His people, he's confident in it. “I am sure,” he says, not just because he'd _____ it for himself, but because he understands the love of Christ is a _____ love.

Our victory in the spiritual conflict that rages over our souls, comes a terrible _____. However, not one that we pay _____. Jesus, the One who loved us, has paid _____ for us.

#4. The _____ of Christ's love.

Paul structures his message here around pairs of opposites or _____:

to make the point that from pole to pole, from one _____ to another, from horizon to horizon, the love of Christ _____ us fast.

In other words, it's _____; there's no depth of pain, grief, or loss into which we can descend that's beyond the _____ of God's love. Nor can our trials rise in _____ to such a degree that the love of Christ is no longer any match for them.

“For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.” (Psalm 103:11)

No matter how we chose to examine it, the love of Christ is _____ to save and to secure. In fact, Paul says there's nothing in all creation _____ than the grip of the love of Jesus Christ

We're utterly safe in the love of King Jesus. Our _____ isn't founded on our strength, our goodness, our love, or even our faith in Jesus. Rather, it's founded ultimately, on the _____ of the love of Jesus for us, and there's no _____ in creation mightier than that!

What can separate us from the love of Christ?” Nothing! Hallelujah!

At Home Work

Is there something about today's sermon that I need to:

- Admit
- Believe
- Change in me
- Demonstrate
- Share
- Confess
- Research further