

FOR DAILY MEDITATION

MONDAY, Apr. 19. Job 19:19-27.

The Redeemer lives. It takes practice, but even in our suffering, we can know, as Job knew in the midst of his pain, that our Redeemer lives. Be cautious, let the Bible guide your heart, and quiet your life. Jesus has opened our ears to hear the greatest message ever given to us.

TUESDAY, Apr. 20. Col. 1:12-15.

Rescued from darkness. Satan rules this world, but God has defeated his dark powers and led us away to the kingdom of light, where His Son rules. The kingdom lies within believers (Luke 17:21). To live the Christian life, we must live from the kingdom of light as children eager to learn and to trust their Father. God has rescued us from the darkness and brought us into the light.

WEDNESDAY, Apr. 21. Col. 2:10-15.

Made alive with Christ. This is possibly the fullest affirmation of Christ's deity in Scripture. Since the power of God rested on Jesus, who is God in bodily form, Jesus overcomes all other powers, even the power of death—both spiritual and physical. We are made alive in Christ by both His power and His great love as our aviator.

THURSDAY, Apr. 22. Gal. 4:1-7.

Sons of God. As God's creatures and as sinners purchased back by God, we deserve only to be His slaves without personal freedom. Salvation and redemption are gifts. Our only part in it all is our admission of sin. In grace, He has made us His adopted children with full rights of inheritance and freedom. His forgiveness

cleansing. Once He forgives us, He remembers our sins no more (Jer. 31:34). We are His.

FRIDAY, Apr. 23. Titus 2:11-14.

Waiting for Christ's appearing. We are waiting for Christ's glorious appearing, when history on earth will be over and Christ will rule in His kingdom manifested here. What shall we do as we wait? We should say no to worldly passions and ungodliness, live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives, and encourage other believers to stand firm in the faith and godly living. We should be eager to do good. It sounds like a big project, but God has given His Spirit and presence to help us.

SATURDAY, Apr. 24. Isa. 35:1-10.

Joy of the redeemed. God intends good for His creation. And He intends to secure it in Jesus Christ. Salvation is for everyone who believes. Culture, stature, and wealth are of no concern to God when it comes to salvation and a place in His kingdom. God's salvation is for everyone. It is, therefore, our task to be involved in Jesus' concern for healing, for the poor, and for those whom society ignores. Those who travel on the path to God must be cleansed of sin. God freely forgives. Christians look forward to that day when we are ransomed out of this fallen world and into our promised kingdom. We know God's promises are true.

SUNDAY, Apr. 25. Rom. 8:18-27.

The hope of future glory. Present suffering for all creation will end when God guides history to its climax. God created the earth as a habitation for His people. Sin has brought on decay and frustration. Sin does not get the last word, though. The same Holy Spirit who hovered over the waters at Creation is the same Spirit given to Chris-

LESSON 9

MAY 2, 2021

SCRIPTURE LESSON TEXT

ROM. 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.

29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

31 What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

32 He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

33 Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? *It is* God that justifieth.

34 Who is he that condemneth? *It*

is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

NOTES

More than Conquerors

Lesson Text: Romans 8:28-39

Related Scriptures: Jeremiah 29:10-14; John 3:18;
Psalms 56:9-11; 118:5-7

TIME: A.D. 56

PLACE: from Corinth

GOLDEN TEXT—"What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31).

Lesson Exposition

This lesson focuses on a second profound yet practical implication of the gospel—the believer's ability to successfully overcome every challenge of life based on his eternally secure relationship with the Saviour. This week's lesson text celebrates God's commitment to the future completion of His children's salvation.

AN ASSURED KNOWLEDGE— Rom. 8:28-30

The knowledge of God's character (Rom. 8:28). After the apostle Paul had shared his thoughts on spiritual bondage and emotional suffering, his thoughts became inclusive, concentrating on the unbreakable bond of God's eternal love for His authentic children. As Paul reflected on the demanding entirety of life, he was convinced God sovereignly arranges *all* events toward a good conclusion for those who genuinely trust in Jesus Christ by faith.

The knowledge of God's commitment (Rom. 8:29-30). Paul based his assured knowledge on God's commitment to completing the process of spiritual salvation. This process began

with God's omniscience, His all-knowing character. It then moved to God's predetermined will for His authentic children. As sovereignly summoned individuals, they would resemble the character of His Son, Jesus Christ. This divine resemblance identified God's chosen children as righteous.

God is often depicted as a cruel tyrant who punishes His children. Nothing can be further from the truth. God loves His true believers. He is committed to arranging all circumstances of their lives toward good and complete outcomes.

SOME REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS— Rom. 8:31-37

Questions about selfless approval (Rom. 8:31-32). Following Paul's thoughts on God's character and commitment, he drew a poignant conclusion. He posed several reflective questions followed by either implied or responsive answers.

Paul's first set of questions concentrated on God's selfless approval of His own. God's firm resolve for the welfare of His children overcame any

and all opposition to their well-being. Moreover, God's selfless gift of His only begotten Son secured His comprehensive gifts of spiritual blessings without compulsion or obligation.

Questions about incriminating accusations (Rom. 8:33-34). God's disciples are not immune to condemning accusations. Paul used legal language to assure God's followers that their approval and acceptance are secure. Since God is the one who has pardoned His children and has declared them righteous in His presence, no one can successfully bring a charge that results in their guilt. Additionally, since Jesus Christ died once for all and was raised bodily from the dead as the perfect Advocate and High Priest, no one can bring a charge against God's people that results in their condemnation.

Questions about life's splitting attempts (Rom. 8:35-37). Paul's final set of questions dealt with attempts aimed at separation from the bond of God's everlasting love. Paul stated neither external pressures, nor internal distresses, nor physical deprivations of any kind could successfully accomplish a divide between God's true children and His love.

To complement Paul's fervent convictions, he referred to an Old Testament passage of Scripture. Paul's quotation was taken from Psalm 44:22. The context of this psalm was a period of intense, national distress for God's people. The language of the ancient psalm aptly described the contemporary attempts God's true followers faced to separate them from God's abiding and protecting love. God's abiding love assures a preeminent, decisive victory as the believer's consuming achievement.

A TRIUMPHANT CONVICTION— Rom. 8:38-39

Paul's use of legal language had a profound effect on his worldview.

As Paul concluded his thoughts on God's abiding and protective love, he came to a triumphant conviction. Paul convinced himself to believe the logical outcome of his prior thoughts. Paul's summary language boldly declared his conviction that everything possible—every possible category of being—was incapable of separating true believers from the love of God in Jesus Christ.

Believers are subject to constant spiritual warfare. To experience the complete victory you have as God's beloved child, I encourage you to clothe yourself with God's armor and steadfastly resist the attacks of your spiritual enemy (cf. Eph. 6:10-20).

—Thomas R. Chmura.

PRACTICAL POINTS

1. Good outcomes to the challenges of life are reserved for those who love God and are in relationship with Him (Rom. 8:28).
2. The saving relationship between God and His children is complete and eternally secure (vss. 29-30).
3. The disparaging death of Jesus Christ secured God's favorable approval of His true believers (vss. 31-32).
4. Spiritual guilt and condemnation are completely foreign to true followers of Jesus Christ (vss. 33-34).
5. In the midst of intense spiritual struggle, phenomenal victory through God's enduring love is the hallmark of God's followers (Rom. 8:35-37; cf. 1 Cor. 15:57).
6. Every possible attempt of man and creation to destroy God's relationship with His people ends in futility (Rom. 8:38-39).

—Thomas R. Chmura.