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| 1  Romans 8:28-39 Sermon Outline  01/26/25  “More Than Conquerors”  **INTRO:**  Certain watch = transparent back = exhibition case style watch  Gears/wheels = turning in all sorts of directions  Our life sometimes can feel = back of watch  But if we look at our life like the front side of watch = wheels/gears/mechanism = produce something beautiful  Ch. 7 and beginning Ch. 8 = back of watch  Sufferings + struggle with our own sins  **MAIN POINT:**  But today Paul wants you to see not only back side of watch, but to see back side with the front side | 2  That though the gears and wheels of your life might seem like all they are turning in all sorts of crazy directions, God is purposing all of that for good, for you to be conformed to the image of His Son Jesus Christ  And in fact, God is using all things in your life, both the good and the bad to act as servants in which it ends up serving you because God has made you more than conquerors  And if God is for you and loves you and even the worst things in life cannot cut off His love from you, then it is utterly impossible for you to be separated from His love which is in Christ Jesus the Lord  **REVIEW:**  Two weeks ago = no condemnation  Assurance of no condemnation = living by the Spirit/putting to death  But suffering = threatens our assurance |
| 3  But in fact, if we suffer because we are faithful to Jesus Christ, that should give us assurance that we are one of His own, that we are hated for our faith because the world hates Jesus and does not know Him  Paul: “If we suffer with Him, we will be glorified with Him”  We may not experience martyrdom for our faith, but are you willing to stand up?  -Reputation, job, physical safety?  But we are not alone in suffering = HS is with us and actually bears up our weaknesses to the Father  Because the Spirit = one nature, one mind, one will = communicates how we should carry out God’s will in the midst of suffering  **BODY:**  Read Rom. 8:26-27  And continuing right where we left off = Rom. 8:28 | 4  V. 28 “*And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose*.”  Shocking statement  Really? Paul are you really serious?!  Head of John Baptist platter = good?  You’re saying incurable cancer is working for my good?  You’re saying when Rachel Joy Scott was murdered in 1999 by Eric Harris as the first victim of the Columbine High School Massacre = for her good?  Gods answers with a resounding yes  We are traveling on this road of life = final destination = eternal joy  But along the way we have to take detours that is marked “suffering” |
| 5  But we don’t suffer alone, we don’t face hardships alone  Incredible truth of this passage = we have the entire force of God, of who He is and what He can do on our side  He is actually using all the sufferings, the evil and the sin to produce in us something glorious  But notice = promise is not for everyone = only for those who have trusted in Jesus Christ as their Lord and as their Savior  It’s only for those who love God  You can only truly love God if you have been loved first by Him through His Son (1 John 4:10)  Have you been loved by God, have you been forgiven by Him?  Furthermore = Those who “*love God*” are those “*who are called according to His purpose*” | 6  It’s “His” purposes, not “our” purposes  And what does Paul mean = “good”?  He explains “good” in V. 29  “*Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brothers;*…”  “good” = to be conformed the image of Jesus Christ  Everyone possess the image of God = but it’s marred and cracked from sin, pieces are missing  What God does is He uses suffering, trials, and hardships along with your daily sanctification to put those pieces slowly back together, repairs the cracks so that you start resembling more and more your Savior  Who does the conforming? Not you, but God  It started all the way back before time existed |
| 7  God first “foreknew” you  Foreknow = not looking down corridors of time  Foreknow = God setting His love and favor on a certain individual/people and forming a relationship with them  In other words, He chose you, you didn’t chose Him  Eph. 1:4  *“He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him”*  After setting His special love on you = He marked out your destiny = “predestination”  Destiny = in God’s perfect timing and perfect way, you would hear the gospel and respond in faith to it  Which leads us to V. 30 | 8  “*and those whom He predestined, He also called; and those whom He called, He also justified; and those whom He justified, He also glorified*.”  In God’s perfect timing, He called you irresistibly to His grace  Two types of calling in the Bible  Open call and effectual call  Open call = open invitation for all to believe, like at the end of sermons, or when Jesus says to come to me all you who are heavy laden and I will give you rest  Effectual call = Lazarus coming out of the tomb  EX of Effectual Call: Paul’s sermon in Pisidian Antioch Acts 13  Acts 13:48 “*and as many as had been appointed or ordained to eternal life believed*.” |
| 9  Paul gave an open call to believe  But only those who were appointed to eternal life, or predestined to eternal life responded in belief in the Savior because they were effectually called by God to do so  Jesus Himself acknowledged this golden chain of redemption = “Many are called, but few are chosen”  When you believed, it might have seemed like you had a choice and it was because of “your” choice that you believed  But according to Scripture, it was not your choice, but God’s choice  He gave you even the faith to believe!  Eph. 2:8 “*For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this not of yourselves*.”  Faith is not “of yourselves!” Why? Eph. 2:9 says “so that no one may boast” | 10  So that when you stand before Him, the any crown that you achieved would be like the 24 elders in the book of Revelation layed before the feet of Jesus acknowledging that He gave you that crown in the first place and it is rightfully His  But when God called you to His grace, you believed, and when you believed, He justified you  Declared you righteous in His sight, saved you, regenerated you, caused you to be born again through His Spirit  And those whom He justified, He also glorified  Wait a minute? What?!!!  Are we already glorified?  Why Past tense? Why not even say Present Tense = “are being glorified?!”  Because salvation is so secure and guaranteed, that glorification is as good as completed already |
| 11  Mind as well right?!  No amount sin can separate or undo your salvation  You can’t choose to go back to the world and your ways, because you didn’t choose Christ in the first place!  Right? If it was your choice that ultimately got you to be saved, then you can choose to not be saved anymore right?  What’s striking about this golden chain = sanctification is missing  Why?  I believe Paul left it out so that there would be no possibility or potentiality of confusion or doubt that God’s salvation could be broken or shaken based on our performance or involvement with it | 12  Sanctification is very important  But it involves us!  Ultimately any good work or any holiness resulting from sanctification = comes from God and the Holy Spirit’s work in our lives  But we are also the vehicle in which God commands us to drive  We don’t just “let go and let God” expecting our sin to be put to death without any effort on our part  I get that there is a tension and a question there of how much involved are we in the process of sanctification  But you get the point right?  The point Paul wants us to see is that everything about our salvation has everything to do with God and not with us |
| 13  And if everything has to do with God and not with us that leads us to V. 31  “*What then shall we say to these things*?”  What then shall we say to fact/reality that God has:  Foreknown us  Predestined us  Called us  Justified us  Glorified us?  And our response to this?  “If God is for us, who is (or who can be) against us?”  Who is strong enough to contend with God?  Tell me who can possibly thwart God’s purposes?  And if His purpose is to save His elect, then nothing can stop that!! | 14  Ok Paul, I get that nobody is strong enough to go against God and His armies  But what about if God just simply grows weary of upholding us constantly?  What if He stops caring for us, stops loving?...  Well the Apostle Paul just loves us too much to not address this underlying question  So he answers V. 32  “*He who indeed did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things*?”  Paul is making argument from greater to lesser  If God withheld His Son from us, then we have a right to question whether He will give us anything less than that  But if God did not even withhold His Son, how will he not also freely and graciously gives us all things?! |
| 15  **ILLUST:**  It’s like when I married Heidi  I struggled with the thought of Heidi’s parent’s concept of “mi casa su casa” (my house is your house)  And the reason their house was my house was because they gave me their most precious daughter to me in marriage.  I remember one time I asked her parents if I could have this… (whether it was food or something, I don’t remember) but her mom glared at me with her eyes, and said “Teru, I gave you my daughter, if I gave you my daughter, of course you can have whatever you want”  That’s what Paul is doing here except to the infinite degree  It’s almost silly to think that we would ever doubt God supplying all our needs | 16  Paul said to Philippian believes in Phil. 4:19  “*And my God will fulfill all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.*”  Ok, Paul well no one can directly attack God and win, even if they try but about bringing an accusation against God’s elect?  V. 33 Paul’s response to that is “*Who will bring a charge against God’s elect*?”  Tell me one, name just one person please who can do that!  “*God is the one who justifies*!” Meaning = God has justified you, set you free, in heaven’s highest court  The highest court in the United States = Supreme Court  If you were acquitted in the state court, you can still be charged by a higher court and overrrulled, but if you were acquitted by Supreme Court, then there is no other higher earthly court than can acquit you… |
| 17  At least in the United States  Similarly, God’s courtroom transcends all other earthly courts, and He has declared you not guilty, and not only not guilty, but righteous in His sight  And even though it’s an impossibility, suppose hypothetically someone does manage to successfully accuse you of unforgiven sin…  V. 34 Then, “*who is the one who condemns*?”  Can you again name someone or something that can condemn?  Sin? = No, Christ killed sin at the cross  The Law? = No Christ made us die to the Law’s demands because He fulfilled it  Who else? The Devil?  After all Rev. 12:10 says that the “*accuser of the brethren stands before God accusing them day and night*” | 18  Right? Satan went before God and accused Job of only loving God and following Him because God gave Him health, wealth, and prosperity  The only one who could rightfully condemn us is Jesus Christ Himself  Jesus says in John 5:22 “*Not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son”*  If there is anyone we should be terrified of being condemned by = it is Jesus  But in fact, at the cross, Jesus became condemned in our place, condemning our sin in His flesh, He took the Father’s wrath upon Himself and died in our place  John 3 Jesus came not to condemn the world, He could have, but He came to save it  V. 34 says “*Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us*.”  Sit = finished = temple = no seats |
| 19  Christ is doing the very opposite of condemning us, He is giving us life and is constantly interceding for us  The Devil loves accusing us and sowing seeds of doubt of our salvation  Satan says, look God he looked with lust at that woman  Jesus says “I paid for that”  Well he murdered someone in the past, how can anyone be forgiven of that?  Jesus says, “No sin is too great for me to forgive”  Next Paul moves from what happens in the spiritual realm to the physical realm; the circumstances of life  V. 35 “*Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction, or turmoil, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword*?”  Affliction = tribulation = tribulum = sled like instrument to crush out grain | 20  The Great Tribulation will be like that where God’s God great instruments of judgment will come reigning down to crush all those who refuse to believe in Him  Even if you become a believer during the time of the 7 year terrible tribulation of the world, not even that can separate you from the love of Christ  “Turmoil” = speaks to oppression from your sides  Lit. “Narrow space” = like two needle walls slowly closing in on its victims = suffocation = “hardships”  Maybe you lost your job, had little food to eat, etc.  “Persecution” can be threatening = ultim. You could lose your life  Famine = painful and eventually lead to death  Going along with famine, you might be “naked” = without clothes and shelter, exposed to the elements  Many in world living without basic human needs |
| 21  Sword = goes along with persecution = violence and ultimately martyred for faith  Paul himself would eventually after writing the book of Romans be beheaded by the Roman government  Paul is not shy to expose the raw details that surround living in a fallen world  V. 36 = quotes Psalm 44  *“For Your sake we are being put to death all day long; We were counted as sheep for the slaughter*.”  But shocking thing is, sheep = conqueror  Those two words don’t go together!!  In fact “overwhelmingly conquer”/ “more than conquerors” = orign. = superconqueror  Because we not only cannot be cut off from God’s love by the worst things that can happen to us…but God uses those worst things as our servants to get us closer to the image of Christ | 22  Sheep are the most dependent, weak, vulnerable and stupid animals on earth…and yet God makes us sheep superconquerors through Jesus Christ  All the suffering, and evil in this world assaults us, but God in His love transforms what we would consider our “enemies” into allies to help us wean off this world and prepare us for the next  The psalmist in Ps. 119 understood this when he said  “*It is good for me that I was afflicted, That I may learn Your statutes.*”  That is not a naturally human response to suffering, but it is supernatural response given by God  Remember Joseph? (Explain story)  When he was finally reunited with his brothers, He didn’t hold onto his bitterness and grudge against them… but said… |
| 23  Gen. 50:20 “*As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to do what has happened on this day, to keep many people alive.*”  Back side of the watch of Joseph’s life = chaos, disorder  But God was using all of that to bring something wonderful from Joseph’s life = the saving of many lives  Then Paul zooms out from the physical things that can happen in our life and looks at creation as a whole and says even anything in the cosmos can’t separate us  VV. 38-39 “*For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor power, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord*.” | 24  Nothing in existence can separate us  Two states of existence: death and life  Angels and demons (rulers) cannot separate you  Nothing in time, in present, or in future can separate you  Nothing in all of space above or beside you can separate you  Because our love can be broken, because we are not love itself. But God is love, it is who He is in His essence…and so nothing can hurt or change or interrupt His love for us  “Elie Wiesel” = Night (explain concentration camps and little boy struggling to stay alive)  “For God’s sake, where is God?”  After moment of silence… “Where is He? “Where is He? This is where (He is) – hanging here from this gallow.” |
| 25  God was = dead = Nazis managed to hang Him too  As blasphemous and as atheistic as that response was, whether Elie Wiesel realized it or not, part of what He said what true  Peter said in Acts 2:23 concerning Jesus’ death “*You nailed to a cross by the hands of lawless men and put Him to death*.”  The most evil act in history was not the concentration camps of World War II  It was the crucifixion of the innocent Son of God by evil men  And they will answer to the Judge of this universe for their crimes  But it was God who did it, it was God who ordained the death of His Son  I only said the later half of Acts 2:23, the full verse reads like this | 26  “*This Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of lawless men and put Him to death.”*  The greatest good that has ever come out of evil was the cross of Jesus Christ  Our sufferings pale in comparison to what Jesus endured on that cross  We are sinful so if we suffer for the rest of our life for all of eternity in hell, we deserve it  But Christ was the unblemished sinless Lamb of God…who didn’t deserve to suffer, didn’t deserve to die…yet God did not withhold His Son for you because He loved you  And He loved you so much that He was willing to overcome your unbelief and your resistance to Him by drawing you to Himself  And this He planned from all eternity that one day the hearing of the Gospel would be united by the faith that He grants to you |
| 27  How do I know I am one of the elect?  How do I know I am more than a conqueror? A superconqueror?  If you have left your life of sin, picked up your cross and followed Jesus  You are one of the elect if you have recognized your sinfulness and your spiritual deadness and your need for Christ to make you born again through His Holy Spirit  You are one of the elect If you have the desire to hate sin and love righteousness and a desire to obey Jesus Christ  You are one of the elect if Jesus is your everything…if he reigns supreme over everything in your life…if you love Him above all else | 28  You don’t become elect if you do these things…but you prove to yourself that you are one of the elect of God because the only possible way you could have those desires is if God by His power and His doing has  given you that belief and those desires to follow His Son  Left to yourself, to your choice, to your will, to your own strength, you will never choose God, you will always choose sin over Him, and if you live life unjustified from your sins, as an unforgiven man, all those things that Paul listed that could separate you from God’s love will eventually separate you from His love forever  But if you respond to God’s call of your life to forever be in His love in repentance and faith, you will therefore no longer be under condemnation for your sins  And nothing will be able to separate you from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus the Lord because  all things are working together for good for those who love Him and for those who are called according to His purpose |
| 29  So don’t be conquered by your sin, but become more than a conqueror through Him who loved us  **Benediction:**  Revelation 3:5 Jesus gives this promise to those who conquer  *“He who overcomes will thus be clothed in white garments, and I will never erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.*” | 30 |