

Transformed, Part 16 Romans 8:35-39 “More than Conquerors”

Well, this past Wednesday night Pastor Jason finished our study in the book of Romans

Today we are finishing our in-depth look at Romans 6-8 – **Series called Transformed**

A) Today is study **#17 in this series** / 10th in ch.8

B) I have enjoyed taking this in-depth look at such a rich portion of Scripture.

C) Many of you have told me it has been life changing for you. – **Praise Jesus for that**

What is next?

A) Next weekend communion – Special study
Luke 24: Jesus took the bread, blessed, broke & gave

B) Pattern of God in our lives – Insightful

C) Prayer series – VERTICAL CHURCH

Why a series on Prayer ? Christian 20, 30 yrs

A) Disciples, teach us to Pray

B) Prayer is something we can all grow in
Team teach – Jason

Read V. 28-39 context -

Life is full of uncertainties

A) There is no certainty that you will live to see another day- **“Tomorrow is promised to no man.”**

B) There is **no certainty that you will have a job tomorrow.** – You could get a call tomorrow – company is down sizing - Sorry – let you go.

C) Oh that will not happen to me – Because I own my own business –

1) Well, you could wake up tomorrow find out – your competitor **under cut you – no more clients.**

D) You could wake up tomorrow and find out that your wife is leaving you.

1) **Tired and doesn't want to be married any more.**

New trend – large numbers of women across the country in the church walking out on their marriages – trend .

You might be thinking why did I bother coming to church today Pastor Rob - if I am hearing you right - telling me

I could die today, i could lose my job tomorrow, or I could find out that my wife is leaving me.

A) Thinking - *I am not a Pastor, but even I know that is not the way to start a sermon.*

B)Now listen- I admit that the chances of those things happening is pretty slim, but what if they did?

C))Here is what Paul wants US to remember- nothing can separate US from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus.

CC)Again – You are thinking - Big deal- I am dying, I am out of work, and my wife just left me, but you want me to rejoice that God still loves me.

1) YES!!!!!!!!!!!!

D)See, what I just described is the absolute worst case scenario for most of us.

E)But here this is what the Bible –wants us to know – no matter what life can throw at us – **Nothing can separate us from the Love of Jesus!**

1)That means – I can make it through anything.

Actually the list Paul goes through is even worse than what I just described.

A)**CONTEXT Roman persecution.** – Believers were in danger every day of losing their lives.

B)100,000 plus Christians were martyred by the Romans!

C)It was that sort of Brutality that Paul is thinking about as he writes

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: Quotes Psalm 44;22

“For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.”

37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who 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 created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Consider his list:

- **Tribulation** = trouble and oppression of various kinds. – Day to day struggles that are a part of living in a fallen world.
- **Distress** = stressful circumstances occasioned by all kinds of dangers and threats and worries.
- **Persecution** = active opposition from the enemies of the gospel.

- **Famine** = Loss of food! note this well! There is no guarantee that Christians will be spared when there are food shortages.
- **Nakedness** = want of sufficient clothing - Homelessness –
- **Peril** = Danger
- **Sword** = Even death

Broadens the list further in v.38,39

Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, (Principalities.....)

neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—

not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love.

No power in the sky above or in the earth below— indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

So this creates a Paradox in our minds, Jesus loves me, but the love that Jesus has for me does not eliminate our suffering.

A)As human beings our natural tendency is to want to **protect our children from harm and difficulty**.

B)We think- wouldn't that be God's heart for His Children as well? –

C)We say things like – I would do anything to keep my Child from suffering.

Not really a true statement: Examples – Your child gets a Cavity

A)Are you not going to take your child to the Dentist when he has a cavity because the shot to numb his gums is going to hurt? – No

B)**Your child needs surgery**- are you going to withhold having the surgery because the recovery time is going to be really painful – bed for weeks? No

C)No, as a parent – YOU KNOW – **HURT COMES WITH HEALING!**

Spiritually the same is true! Hurt comes with healing.

A)We were born with a disease called sin! – We are not sinners because we sin – we sin because we are sinners – kids lie – kids are selfish – SINNERS

B)Most of us came to Christ – **messed up**- We came to Christ broken/ **sin had taken it's toll on our lives**.
1)We enter the family God like we did marriage – with baggage & brokenness. Twisted and Crooked

C)**Hang ups and fears** and trust issues that are all a part of our past –

God in His love is seeking to heal us – mold us – shape us!

A) Sometimes to heal us, he has to allow us to get hurt.

B) Yrs ago I broke my pinky finger playing football.

1) Taped it up – healed itself – but it is crooked – doesn't straighten all the way.

C) In order for it to straighten – a doctor would have to re-break it – **Heal properly**

We too have come to Christ with hearts that have been broken – healed improperly.

A) God in His love for us – will allow our lives to be broken again through things like –

tribulation, (life stuff)
distress, (life pressures)

persecution (loss of relationships because of Christ)

B) God in His love doesn't shield us from any of that because He knows that all those things are going to be used in our healing.

C) He is going to use them to straighten us – **MAKE US MORE LIKE JESUS.**

James 1:2-5

My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. 4 But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

D) Romans 8:28-29

He is working all things together for Good – His Purpose – v.29 – Make us like Jesus.

So as parents we realize that Hurt comes with healing

A) And we also know that there is risk in developing our child's potential.

B) As a parent are you NOT going to allow your son to play football – **something he is really gifted in** because he might get hurt?

B) Are you NOT going to allow your daughter to surf because she could drown or get eaten by a shark?

C) Are you NOT going to allow your child to have friends because kids can be mean and they will get hurt?

D) Are you NOT going to allow your child to get his/her drivers license because they might get in a wreck?

As parents, even over protective parents, we realize that life is full of risks. Life is full of uncertainties, life is full of dangers.

A) But all of it is used to develop our kids – all of it is used to bring out their gifts, to mold them and shape them –

B) All of it is used to shape their potential – all of it is used to help them reach their maximum impact in this world.

The same is true with God!

A) Life is **His training ground** - used to Develop us

B) **Life is also His platform** - A stage - Full of opportunities to be glorified in us and through us.

C) Sometimes **He is glorified in our Victories** – We give Him credit – we draw attention to Him.

1) Other times **He is glorified in our defeats** {Grace in failure

2) Other times **He is glorified in our sufferings** {Strength to overcome, strength to make it through.

D) Through it all we are never alone - never forgotten, never forsaken, Always kept by the overwhelming love of our Redeemer and Savior /friend...brother

Through His love for us – His devotion to us – We ARE MORE THAN CONQUERORS

A) Interesting description: More than conquerors.

B) We know what a conqueror is – It is a football team that annihilates an opponent – 56-0

1) It is an UFC fighter who just destroys his challenger in a matter of seconds

C) In Paul's day it was the Roman army that used brutality and intimidation to put the rest of the world into submission.

D) Those are all examples of a Conqueror

But what does it mean to be more than a Conqueror?

A) It is to have the victory in the midst of the battle.

B) While things are still raging around me, while the outcome still seems to be **very uncertain**

1) Being more than a Conqueror is to have the glorious victory and rejoicing, even in the midst of the battle.

C) **Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego** were tossed into the fiery furnace.

1) They said – One way or another God is going to deliver us from your hand.

D) It is **the picture of 1,000's of Christians** during the **Roman persecution** lined up outside the coliseum in Rome – awaiting their death.

1) In the coliseum are gladiators who will use them for sport – or lions and other wild beast who will rip them to shreds

E) The coliseum is packed with Roman spectators who are there to be entertained by the spectacle?

There is this line of Christians waiting to walk into that coliseum to their brutal death – What are they doing ? Singing praise songs to Jesus.

A) **Worship service in the midst of the situation** – that is being more than conquerors!

B) So compelling – so significant – so powerful a scene

C) That Roman citizens sitting in the stands – are so moved by this **display of courage, peace, some were converted on the spot.**

1) {left the stands got in line – to be martyred for Jesus.

D) That is what it means to be more than Conquerors!

I could never do that – YOU ARE RIGHT – not about you!

A) More than Conquerors – through Him (Through Jesus) who loves us!

B) It is not our devotion to Him that makes us more than conquerors, it is His devotion to us.

1) It is not our strength in Him that makes us...../ It is His STRENGTH working in us.

C) **During the height of WWII when Nazi Germany was killing Jewish men and women by the millions.**

1) Believers in Germany were taking to hiding Jewish people in their homes and Basements.

D) **One family – Corrie ten Boom.** { Young teen age girl } Afraid – I am not sure I can make it father if the Nazis catch us.

Her dad said: “When we are going on a trip – when do I give you the money for the ticket – weeks ahead of time – or the day of?” – Day of.

E) Same is true of the Lord – He gives us what we need in the moment for the need that is at hand. –

Hebrews 4:16 He promises Timely help – Grace for the time of need.

John 16:33

33 These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

A) It is because He has overcome the world – that we can be more than conquerors through Him who loves us.

"More than conqueror" is one who, by the grace and the gift of God, and in the strength of God within him, actually takes the very things that are designed to destroy him, and they become stepping stones instead of stumbling blocks." **Ray Stedman**

B)Romans 8 great passage dealing with our security in Christ, Confidence in Christ, Strength from.....

Rest / Rejoice

Rest and rejoice – three great truths we learn from Romans 8

Concerning our Past - Verse 1 declares there is no condemnation concerning the past.

Concerning our Present - verse 28 states that all things are working together for good in the present.

Concerning our Future - Verses 35- 39 promise there is nothing that can separate from God's love in the future.

Not a believer in Jesus – why would you even want to try and do life without Him.

A)The Primary reason a person should want to give their life to Christ is only way to escape Judgment – Hell without Him

B)But there are plenty of other benefits that come with living in a relationship with Jesus – Abundant life

1)Loving Savior – every situation.

Ready – Move Death to Life – Unsaved to save

No relationship with God to a loving relationship

Believe in Jesus – cling to, trust in, rely upon

C) Stand for Jesus today – Room of those who love Him – He will stand for you in every situation.