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Description automatically generatedFrom Foreknoweldge to Glorification!**

**Romans 8:26-39**

**(Lesson #15)**

***26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. 27 And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. 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. 29 ¶ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. 30 And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.***

**Vs 26 -** In like manner,the Holy Spirit, helps us, in our weaknesses, in our feebleness. “Helps us” is present tense, and could be translated helps and keeps helping us. The Spirit is currently and constantly helping us.

The Holy Spirit is not aloof and disconnected from our plight, but instead is in the midst of our plight and He “helps us” in the midst of our struggles.

For sometimes, we do not even know what to pray for, but there on our knees, the Spirit Himself, enters into our plight and makes intercession before the throne, with groanings that are too deep for words.

The Spirit of God, cries out before the throne of God with **groanings**, that **cannot be expressed in words!**

**Now what exactly Paul is envisioning**, we do not fully know. What it looks like, we can only imagine. But we get the point. When we have no idea what to pray for, the Spirit is groaning in and through us with groanings, **which are too deep for words**.

Paul has used this word “groaning” before:

***22****For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.****23****And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies (Rom 8:22-23, ESV).*

Our groanings, over the dissatisfaction of the way things are, may be the very thing that Paul is talking about. The discomfort over our current condition, the Holy Spirit translates into a petition that **God’s will would be done!**

**Vs 27 -** The one who searches the hearts, the God of glory Himself, knows what is in the mind of the Spirit, and the Spirit is interceding for us, according to the will of God.

As you consider what Paul is saying, first see that he is saying the Spirit is much more than a power (for it has a mind and processes what is going on in our life) and the Spirit intercedes for us according to the will of God, which He must obviously understand to be able to intercede.

But notice, God the Father knows, what the Spirit is thinking… ***he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit.***

**You should sense an amazing unity and intimacy in the trinity!**

**There is mutual interaction between God and the Holy Spirit and the Believer.**

The Holy Spirit does this in such a way that He asks God, not for what the believer thinks they need, but instead what they really need. The Holy Spirit, intercedes according to the will of God!

**Vs 28 - We know...** Now we have all likely heard many sermons on this verse, so I will avoid preaching a sermon, although this is great sermon material.

The Greek word translated know is the word **οιδα** (oida)*.* It means to know by **observation**, it is to know because you have **seen it**. We know, having seen it in our own lives many times, it is a settled fact!

For those who **love God** (born again, saved, redeemed, justified, have a new heart and a new nature). For those who love God, we know that... All things work together for good.

**Now this should be an amazing comfort!** This is on-par with Romans 8:1. This is an absolutely amazing promise of God.

**This truth is the testimony of the entire Bible:**

* God can take Judas betraying Jesus and turn it into the salvation of the world.
* God can take Caiaphas leading a kangaroo court and falsely condemning Jesus and turn it for good for the entire world!
* God can take Joseph, sold into slavery by his own brothers and turn it around to save multiple nations and preserve the Hebrew nation:

*“18 His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." 19 But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? 20 As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.” (Ge 50:18-20 ESV)*

You and I know, through the witness of the Scriptures and by what we have observed as we walk with God in the details of our lives, we know, that all things work together for good to those who love God.

Now as we consider this, I want to make sure, I highlight one point that might otherwise be lost. In the book of Romans, Paul often speaks of God’s love for believers (Rom 1:7, 5:5, 5:8, 8:35, 8:37, 8:39).

This is his only reference to our love for God. Why:

1. If you are a believer, you do love God, that is true, for that is what it means to be a Christian.
2. More importantly though, we love God in response to the love that He first showed us:

*“but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (Ro 5:8 ESV)*

*“We love because he first loved us.” (1Jo 4:19 ESV)*

**Now this does not say that all things are good.** That is not what the Bible declares nor is it the experience of believers in this room. But it does say that all things are working together for good.

**This means, that God has a planned purpose in the difficult things that come into our life** (drawing us closer to Him, making us more like Him, moving us to trust Him more, or even bringing about repentance from sin in our lives).

**Do we really grasp what an amazing promise this is?**

**APPLICATION:** If so, why do we complain? Why do we belly-ache? Why instead, do we not see all things working together in a symphony for our good?

* **That does not mean we do not seek to right wrongs done to us.** But it does mean we trust God for the outcomes in our life and we are satisfied with His outcomes for our lives!

**Notice those who love God are described in a different way. This is going to come back around in chapter 9, here Paul is only introducing the topic.** They are described as those who ***are called according to his purpose.***

The Greek word translated **“called”** is the Greek word: **κλητός** (kletos). It means **to be invited**, to **be selected**, to **be appointed** or to **be summoned**.

If you are a believer, you are one **God has called**, you are one **God has invited to be part of his family**! God called you through the gospel, that is how He called you out of darkness into the Kingdom of His Son!

Notice here, Paul says those who love God are**: *are called according to his purpose.***

**Vs 29 -** The first word translated “for” is the Greek word **ὅτι** (hoti), the better translation would be “because” Paul is about to tell us the reason why **“all things work together for good” for God’s people.**

For those God “**foreknew**”, the Greek word translated foreknew is the word **προγινώσκω** (proginosko). It means to **“know beforehand”** or **“decided beforehand”.**

Two examples of how the word is used:

***18****knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold,****19****but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.****20****He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you (I Pet 1:18-20, ESV).*

***15****And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him,****16****as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures.****17****You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability. (II Pet 3:15-17, ESV).*

Those God, **foreknew,** he also **predestined** to be conformed to the image of his son.

The Greek word translated **predestined** is the Greek word: προορίζω (proorizo). It means to **appoint beforehand**, to **predetermine**, or to **decide beforehand**.

Those God foreknew, he **predestined** to be **conformed** to the **image of His one and only Son Jesus.**

The Greek word translated “**image”** is the word **εἰκών** (eikon). It is a **stamped out**, **fire embossed image** of the original.

Two verses to make the point:

*“"Show me a denarius. Whose likeness and inscription does it have?" They said, "Caesar’s."” (Lu 20:24 ESV)*

*“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.” (Col 1:15 ESV)*

As much as Jesus is the **εἰκών** (eikon) of God, you and I (as believers) are predestined to be conformed to the **εἰκών** (eikon) of Jesus!

This word of course reaches back to Genesis when God created humanity:

*“26 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.” (Ge 1:26-27 ESV)*

And hints to the reality that Paul sees the Son of God as the archtype of a newly restored humanity:

*“Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.” (1Co 15:49 ESV)*

As you read these verses, I hope there are **three primary messages** that you hear:

1. God loves you
2. God has an overarching plan for your life, put simply it is conforming you to the image of His Son
3. God intends for His only Son Jesus to have many brothers and sisters

**Hear we have gotten a peak behind the curtain and what we see is the mystery of God’s love for us! Paul has more to say in just a second.**

**Vs 29b** The **end-game**, the **ultimate purpose** is that Jesus would serve as the **“firstborn”** of many brothers and sisters, all members of the family of God, with **Jesus as our elder brother**.

**What does Paul mean that Jesus is the firstborn?** The word can mean **first in literal order** or **most important in the entire order**, the **preeminent one** or **the prominent one**.

He was not the firstborn of women, there were many born prior to Jesus. The JW’s use this verse to teach that Jesus was the “first thing” that God created. That is not true and flies in the face of many verses that deny that claim.

Here I believe Paul has **two things in mind**. He made these exact same **two points** when he wrote to the Colossians:

*“15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16 For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities —  all things were created through him and for him. 17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.” (Col 1:15-18 ESV)*

1. The firstborn of all creation, of all that were ever **born of a female**, Jesus is the **preeminent one**!
2. Of all who have been raised from the dead, Jesus is the preeminent one!

God’s **ultimate plan** involves **reshaping men and women** into the **image of Christ** (the God man) through the power of the indwelling Spirit (He planned to change our want-ers 😊) in order that **Christ would have many brothers and sisters** of whom you and I are ones!

**Vs 30 - Here in these two verses is the astounding mystery of salvation.**

Those who God **foreknew**, those are the ones who he **predestined** to be conformed to the image of His One and only Son, the ones whom he predestined are the ones whom he **called**, the ones whom he called are the ones who he **justified**, and those whom he justified he also the one he **glorified**.

As we consider this mystery, let’s take a quick look at these words and there use in the New Testament:

**Predestined:** The Greek word: **προορίζω** (proorizo). It means to **appoint beforehand**, to **predetermine**, or to **decide beforehand**.

**Bible Verses:**

*26The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers were gathered together, against the Lord and against his Anointed’— 27for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, 28to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place (Acts 4:26-28, ESV).*

*3Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love 5he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, 6to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved (Eph 1:3-6, ESV).*

**Called:** The Greek word is **καλέω** (kaleo). It means to **call by name**, to **bid**, **to summon by name**, to **give a name**, to be **invited**, or to be **called for a reason**.

**Bible Verses:**

*13But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. 14To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. (II Thes 2:13-14, ESV).*

*9God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (I Cor 1:9, ESV).*

**Justified:** The Greek word is **δικαιόω** (dikaioo). We have looked at this word a number of times in Romans. It is a **forensic**, **legal** term that means to be **declared righteous**.

**Bible Verses:**

*20For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin (Rom 3:20, ESV).*

*1 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ (Rom 5:1, ESV).*

**Glorified:** It can mean to glorify or praise. But, used in this way, it is referring to men and women being conformed to the glorious image of Jesus, and it is likely hinting to the final state of man, when we have a resurrected body and like Jesus, we are completely glorified.

**Bible Verses:**

*16His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about him and had been done to him (Joh 12:16, ESV).*

*18For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us (Rom 8:18, ESV).*

**As you ponder this mystery, let me provide you will one additional mystery to add to your pondering:**

*“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life” (Joh 3:16, ESV).*

*“2:1 First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, 2for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. 3This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, 4who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth (I Tim 2:1-4, ESV).*

**These are two mysteries that men have argued about for the last two thousand years.** The Calvinists taking one position while the Arminians take another position.

I would argue the main tenant of both groups are absotlutey true and we should embrace and hold both (no reservations) as absolutely true. **We should not try to explain the mystery of either away. For when we do that we diminish to glory and the majesty of our God and His gospel.**

God chose Abraham, God chose Moses, and God chose you. Abraham believed God, Moses believed God, and every person if they are to every be saved, must believe God to do so.

Paul built a necklace of **five events**, all connected and all going to a **singular glorious outcome**!

Frank Thielman: *“The transformation of God’s people from mortal to immortal human beings happens at God’s initiative and direction from beginning to end, and its accomplishment is therefore certain.”*

The reason Paul brings this up, at this point, is for you and I to be fully assured that what God started in our lives, He will bring to the ultimate conclusion (GLORIFICATION)! **This is our eternal security!**

But let’s look, one last time at Paul’s necklace of five pearls:

It starts with the foreknowledge of God, those he **foreknew** **(knew beforehand and decided beforehand)** he **predestined** **(**to beconformed to the image of His Son), those He predestined He **called** **(through the gospel)** and those he called he **justified** **(Romans 4 - declared righteous)** and those he justified he **glorified (the final end state!),** although He actually has not done that. Not yet...

**Equally, our head, the Lord Jesus Christ is already glorified:**

*4But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— 6and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus (Eph 2:4-6, ESV).*

In the Greek this is a string of five, **Aorist tense** indicative mood verbs. The Aorist tense in the Greek is an emphasis on what is called “punctiliar” action. There is no regard to time, past, present, or future. But rather, the regard is on the action itself. **This is the string from the mind of God, to the ultimate and final glorification of the believer.**

Two points additional points as you think about Paul speaking about our glorification (translated past tense):

1. **Eternal Security:**

*“28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand. 30 I and the Father are one."” (Joh 10:28-30 ESV)*

*“"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” (Joh 3:16 ESV)*

1. **Warnings About Being Deceived:**

*“21 "Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22 On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ 23 And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’” (Mt 7:21-23 ESV)*

*“7 Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. 8 For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.” (Ga 6:7-8 ESV)*

**If a person says, I believe in “once saved always saved” and then goes out and lives like the devil, that is evidence that person does not know Jesus.**

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***31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? 33 Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died —  more than that, who was raised —  who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. 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.***

**Vs 31 - Verse 31** opens with **two additional rhetorical questions**:

**Q-1 - What shall we say to all of this?** Sin, death, and shame were the ultimate enemies of God’s people, but God has acted powerfully on their behalf! What more can we say?

**Q-2 - If God is for us, who is able to stand against us?**

You get the point. **If God is on our side**, if God is the one who has **orchestrated all of this,** then who under God’s heaven can stand against us.

Since God is indeed for us, who can stand against us. This of course is a rhetorical question and the unstated, howbeit obvious answer is NO ONE!

Once you and I grasp hold of the reality of all that God has done for us, in Christ, we should begin to recognize that no power, no force, nothing in heaven or on the earth can stand against us.

Do we have enemies? YES, but they can never be successful in bringing a damning charge against us and undoing the justification we have in Christ?

**Vs 32 -** Here we find Paul’s third, rapid fire, **rhetorical question.** If God **gave us heaven’s best**, which He did, in that he did not spare his own Son. **What good things could he, would he, possibly withhold?**

**No instead. If God gave us heaven’s best, will he not also “graciously” give us all things?** Once God gave heaven’s best, the idea that he would withhold anything that could be used for our good, is silly!

God did not spare His own son:

*“9 When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. 10 Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. 11 ¶ But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." 12 He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me."” (Ge 22:9-12 ESV)*

Abraham, was **not going to spare** sacrificing His Son, God stopped him. **God, did not spare His own Son and NO ONE stopped him.**

God “gave up” or “delivered up” His own Son. Jesus going to Calvary was not an accident, it was not a plan that went off the rails, rather this was God’s plan to save you and I!

*“26 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers were gathered together, against the Lord and against his Anointed’ —  27 for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, 28 to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place.” (Ac 4:26-28 ESV)*

**Because Christ was “given over” for you and I, God freely and graciously give us “all things”.**

**Vs 33 -** Here we find Paul’s **forth rhetorical question**: The obvious answer to this rhetorical question is No One. The reason, it is the creator of all things, the God of glory who has justified us.

**If God justifies, who under heaven can successfully lay a charge against us?**

God’s people should have no fear of the final judgment day, nor of anyone, of any accuser successfully bringing any charge against us.

Remember how Romans 8 started:

*“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” (Ro 8:1 ESV)*

If you remember I told you this is the Greek word **κατάκριμα** (katakrima). It is a condemning sentence; it is a sentence of damnation passed down from a judge.

Here we are asked the rhetorical question: ***Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect?*** Who will bring any form or charge or accusation **κατά** (kata) against God’s elect?

**Elect** is a word that connects foreknowledge and predestination. The Greek word is **ἐκλεκτός** (eklektos). It brings with it the idea of **choosing** or **being picked out** of a group.

*9But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light (I Pet 2:9, ESV).*

*12Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, 13bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive (Col 3:12-13, ESV).*

Elect is another word for believers, another word for those who are **justified**, those who have been **born again**, those who have been **baptized into the Spirit**, or those who have been **saved**.

**No one, including Satan is able to level a charge against God’s elect! God is the one who justified us.**

**Who can bring a charge that would overturn God’s declaration of justification?**

**Obvious answer... No One!** We could quote a point that Paul has already made:

*“Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Ro 5:1 ESV)*

**Vs 34 -** Here we find Paul’s **fifth rhetorical question**? Who is to condemn, the Greek word is **κατακρίνω** (katakrino), it is the **condemning sentence**. Who is able to condemn those whom God has declared righteous?

**Obvious answer... NO ONE!**

The Paul takes time to explain something he has made clear, but he wants to be sure that it is clear with his audience!

**The Messiah Jesus is the one who died (for us) (delivered for our offenses Rom 4:25), more than that he was the one who was raised from the dead (for us) (for our justification Rom 4:25), and He is the one who is right now seated at the right hand of God (Heb 8:1), who is right now interceding for them (for us) (Heb 7:25)!**

But there two important points we need to touch upon here:

1. **Right hand of God**

*“The Lord says to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool” (Ps 110:1 ESV).*

Here we see how Israel should have seen their coming King, their Messiah, as vice-regent of God.

*“29 But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men. 30 The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. 31 God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.” (Ac 5:29-31 ESV)*

*“1 ¶ If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. 3 For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.” (Col 3:1-3 ESV)*

*“1 ¶ Now the point in what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, 2 a minister in the holy places, in the true tent that the Lord set up, not man.” (Heb 8:1-2 ESV)*

Since His ascension, Jesus is seated (the work is complete), in the place or authority, at the right hand of the Father.

**The second point, intercession:**

Not only is Jesus, seated at the right hand of God, but he makes intercession, he intercedes on our behalf. We intercede for one another**, have you ever considered that Christ is interceding for you?**

*“Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.” (Heb 7:25 ESV)*

*“My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.” (1Jo 2:1 ESV)*

Keep in mind, earlier Paul had told us that the Holy Spirit was interceding for us, here Paul tells us the Lord Jesus is interceding for us. This is an incredible picture of the sovereign Lord, Jesus Christ, the one seated at the right hand of God, who is interceding for us, who is praying for us!

**Here we have a hint at the priesthood of Christ although this is not fully explained and expounded on until the book of Hebrews!**

**Vs 35 - Who or what shall separate us from the love of Christ? Here we find rhetorical question #6!**

The Greek word separate means to **divide**, to **split**, to s**ever**, or to **divorce**.

**Now Paul lists seven things: tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, danger, or the sword.**

Are these the only seven things that God can prevent us from being separated from Him? I mean what about bullets, bombs, lions and elephants, demons and the devil Himself? **Yes, we get it, he is providing a list that is meant to represent all things.**

Here is Paul’s list of things that he would argue cannot separate us from the love of Christ:

* **Tribulation or Sufferings (Rom 5:3)**
* **Distress or Calamities (II Cor 12:10)**
* **Persecution (II Cor 12:10)**
* **Famine or Hunger (II Cor 11:25-27)**
* **Nakedness or Exposure (II Cor 11:25-27)**
* **Danger (II Cor 11:25-27)**
* **Sword or Death (Heb 11:32-37)**

**Vs 36 -** First, as it is written is a quote from **Psalm 44**. Now before we read it let me set the stage. Psalm 44 is a complaint made in anguish of spirit over the fact that God has allowed His people to suffer horrible and humiliating defeat. What God allowed confuses the Psalmist and he cries out to God. Paul brings this forward into the New Testament and it is no longer a question asked in anguish, but a rhetorical question.

**Jesus was the sacrificial innocent lamb who his oppressors murdered, and God raised Him from the dead in a glorious resurrected body.** Paul’s conclusion, God will do the same with and through us!

**Vs 37 -** You and I are more than conquerors through him (Jesus) the one who loved us and gave Himself for us. No, in **all these things** (the examples above) we are more than conquerors, through Him who loved us.

**Vs 38-39 - For I am sure. I am positive.** I am rock solid and without a doubt certain, and then Paul provides another list (this time ten things) that cannot separate us from the love of God in Christ!

He is his list: **death**, **life**, **angels**, **rulers**, **things present**, **things to come**, **power**, **height**, **depth**, or **anything in all creation**. Ten things, with the tenth be anything or all things.

If you have been born again, if you have placed faith in Jesus Christ, if you have been justified, if you have been given a new heart and a new nature, if God’s Spirit lives within you, if you are saved. I, like Paul, am certain that you are safe and secure.

I love how Thielman ended his notes on this section: *“God can only be fully known, and his love fully experienced, through Christ Jesus in his reconciling death and his glorious resurrection (5:5-8, 18-91, 8:3-4, 11, 17, 29).”* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_