



“What can separate you from the love of God?” by Rev Samuel Mametsa, Sunday Service, the 22nd July 2012.

Who can separate you from the love of God? What can separate you from the love of God?

Scripture reading: Romans 8:35-39 & Psalms 44:22.

Rom 8:35-39 *“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 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.” Rom 8:35-39, NKJV.*

I want to start by discussing the words “*who shall?*” In this text the bible tells us that Paul was encouraging the church. He asks “*who shall?*” which means he was expecting somebody in the congregation to raise his or her hand to say “*Me*” but nobody did. He asks “*who shall?*” If really we are a church of God or if really we are real and genuine Christians “*Who/ What can separate you with the love of God?*” If



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there is anyone / anything that can do this, then I am telling you today, you are in the wrong place.

Let me tell you about Paul. Let's go to the time when he was still named Saul. He went to the High Priest to get authorization in the form of a letter to persecute Christians. The bible says he killed many Christians. He was powerful in killing, tormenting and oppressing and one day on his way to Damascus the bible says he was struck by a lightning. That lightning is the one that makes you a Christian. In that light Saul received many revelations. Afterwards he said *"I cannot proceed to Damascus."*

The people of Damascus knew that Saul was coming and they prayed to God and the light struck. When you pray God will send the lightning. The people of Damascus did not see the lightning and they never saw it. When you pray you must know that somewhere the lightning has / will struck.

The bible says after the revelation and the vision, he realised *"I can't proceed to Damascus. There are a lot of problems I am encountering. The voice in the lightning said you have to proceed with the journey."* He then realised *"I have made a mess!"* There is a reason why God prepared somebody to help and heal him in Damascus. God said to him *"You have to go because your healing is there, it is in Damascus."* He was left with a choice *"If I go I will be healed, If I go back I will remain blind."* Two choices, what is your choice?

The bible says he chose to go and when the people who were fasting



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and praying saw him there they started to run. Why? They did not see a new Saul. That is why today even the Christians run away from their prayers. Yes, the people in Damascus ran away. Even Cornelius who was supposed to heal him was afraid.

The bible says after he was healed, it was difficult for him to convince the people. When you are from the world and you have messed up a lot, the people will have difficulty in believing you have really repented.

That is why Paul said to Timothy even if you say, *"I should not go to Rome, I will go because my death is my gain. If it is hunger, let it come, if it is death let it come but whatever it is that is on my way, I am going to Rome."* In other words, he was saying *"who shall?"* Yes, *What can separate you with the love of God?"*

When a person says this *"who shall?"* This means he is saying *"Who are you? What can you do to me?"* This person understands the situation and his position and says it from deep within the heart *"You can't do anything to me."* Paul says *"Christ is my life."* If you take Christ in your life and allow Him to come into your life, then you have a new life, pride in you will die and all the other sins will die, *"Christ is in me, he lives in me, I live His love so there is nothing that can separate me from the love of Christ."* If you can allow anything to separate you from the love of Christ, it means Christ is not yet in you. You can claim it, but if He really is in you, nothing can separate you from the love of Christ.



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Paul identifies things that scare people and make them afraid. Maybe when he went to Damascus he realised people were afraid of him: In this verse he talks about the different problems. Some of which are:

Oppression. No matter how it can come. We know many people go to hospital because of depression. Oppression is there but it should not affect you, a child of God. You have to know, that your body belongs to Christ. People who are afraid of oppression are the people who are afraid of death. Why allow yourself to be oppressed and suppressed by problems of this world?

If you see a Christian afraid of death then there is no Christ in that Christian. If you are afraid to die, you are still looking for Christ. Paul says *"The decree is out; the sanction is out, that I am going to be killed in Rome, and they are going to cut my head off in Rome."*

Paul was already aware that when he arrives in Rome, the sanction will be executed. Timothy says to Paul *"Paul, don't go."* I want you to know more about Paul. Timothy says to Paul *"Don't to go to Patmos Island"* but Paul says *"Rome is where I am going."* I am talking about a man who knows God, who knows where he is going. He says *"Come in winter to fetch my body; it will be hanged upside down."*

He went and they said to him *"Have you come here?"* and he said to them *"Do what you will!"* Paul went there and they slaughtered him like a lamb.

Rom 8:35 *"Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine,*



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or nakedness, or peril, or sword?" NKJV.

If robbers take your clothes some of you will not go to church. Paul says *"Even if you take my clothes and it is a Sunday I will go to church and worship my God."* This man was properly circumcised. He says *"As long as I can walk, my mouth can open, I will go and worship God because my life is Christ."*

Peril or sword: If you go to Paul with a sword he will give you his head and say *"Slaughter me, I can't get my crown whilst alive, slaughter me, my death is my gain. Slaughter me so I can receive my crown."*

He was encouraging the church. He says **Rom 8:36** *"36 Even as it is written, For Thy sake we are put to death all the day long; we are regarded and counted as sheep for the slaughter. [Ps 44:22.]"*
AMP.

Because you are a Christian you are killed all day long and so you face sicknesses, diseases, hunger and or unemployment. Even if you are alive you are dying slowly every day. *"Just because we serve you!"* We are punished because we are serving Christ. Because you are serving the living God! That is why Christians are suffering, because of Christ. Whatever you plan doesn't prosper because you are serving Christ. When you arrive home, there is no food, when you go to be interviewed for a job you don't get the post. You are punished because you serve Christ. In other words, being a Christian is not easy.

Some will say if you want to prosper live this Christ. An example of this



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is: *"If you want a tender, give us a bribe"*. That in itself means *"Live Christ."* They don't literally say *"Live Christ"* but they want you to do things that will separate you from Christ. Live Christ so you can get a job.

A lot of Christians are living Christ because of situations and when the devil brings something, say R20 million tender and says *"This is yours provided..."* that is why even now, there are other people who have become the prey of the devil. They tell you *"You have won R20mil to claim it deposit only R1000"*. Can your R1000 buy R20mil? They want you to abandon Jesus. How on earth can you buy R20million with R1000? Why doesn't it come to your mind? Why don't you ask that person *"If I won the money, why should I buy it?"* Sometimes they phone you and say *"You won something but you must do something"*. Why must there be conditions?

Why do you believe this? It is because of your situation that is tormenting you, you are allowing it to oppress you and you will fall into satanic traps. The devil will test you. He is seeking whom he may devour.

The devil doesn't see the Christ in you. If he was seeing Christ in you he would not torment you, he won't even send his demons to you.

Rom 8:37 *"...counted as sheep for the slaughter. [Ps 44:22.]"* **AMP.**

That is why every day when you move around, the devil's plan is to slaughter you. He doesn't kill somebody who doesn't trouble him. The



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devil doesn't kill a Christian. He kills somebody who is almost a Christian. The devil doesn't kill a Christian, he kills those who are about to be Christians or those pretending to be Christians. The reason why he doesn't kill Christians is he knows he is sending you straight home. The kingdom of darkness made a mistake with Jesus Christ, Paul, Peter, and all the disciples. They thought they were sending them to hell. The devil doesn't want to make that mistake anymore. He wants those pretenders, those still deciding, and those who are moved by the storms. These are the Christians that the devil wants, the people he looks for.

If you observe the wind you will see that when it comes it moves everything, those it can't move, it passes them and leaves them alone but those that are moved the wind will settle around it and make a circle which will grow into a whirlwind and that wind will not pass until it destroys that thing. A reed disciplines the wind because when the wind comes from this side it bends with the wind and each time the wind comes it bends again with the wind and the wind passes and the reed then straightens up and says "*Who do you think you are?*" we need to be like the reed because the situations will come, tribulations etc will come but we must remain standing after all the storms and the tribulations.

Luke 17:1 " *17 Jesus said to his disciples: "Things that cause people to sin are bound to come, but woe to that person through whom they come."* **Luke 17:1, NIV**. In other words, we need to be tested but when the test comes, just bend and it will pass. The test will move on and when it looks back it will say "*But who is this person?*"



Rom 8:37 *"37 Yet amid all these things we are more than conquerors and gain a surpassing victory through Him Who loved us."* **AMP** emphasis on the word "*all*", "*all*" means all. "All" that is in everything, good and bad. "*...we are more than conquerors...*" *In* all these things *we are more than conquerors*. What does this mean? You can be a victor in all these things. Even those preparing to kill you, the bible says you are empowered. Do you know that there are people planning to kill you? Do you know why? Because you are serving God and troubling the devil. That is why they even say we wish he or she should just die. Do you know why?

Psalm 105:15 *"15 Saying, "Do not touch My anointed ones, And do My prophets no harm."* **Ps 105:15, NKJV**. So if somebody can open his or her mouth to say you must die, the death will go back to him or her. Some of the people are killing themselves. Unfortunately before they die they can't come to you and say '*I am dying because I said you must die*'. This means that person will die before you. If the bible says *we are more than conquerors* then it means there are conquerors but they are less than you. If the "less conquerors" say "*You must die!*" the death will reverse and go back to them, because of the supreme power of the word of God about you and in you. Don't undermine this scripture.

Paul says all things work for good for all those who love the Lord. **All things**. You have defeated all things, Why? Because *we are more than conquerors*.



Rom 8:28 *"28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose."* **NKJV**.

The scripture says *to those who love God* and it says *all things*, everything works together. Which and which? Don't quote this verse to somebody who is not a Christian, you will be making a big mistake because it says at the end ..*to those who are the called according to His purpose*. **Rom 8:28, NKJV**.

Rom 8:29 *"29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren."* **NKJV**.

When you are a Christian and really called to Christ, because sometimes people claim to be called and unfortunately a lot of people claim so, then this scripture is talking about you. That is why the devil cannot see Christ in them because they are claiming.

Verse 38 says *"38 For I am persuaded beyond doubt (am sure) that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities, nor things impending and threatening nor things to come, nor powers,"* **Rom 8:38, AMP**.

Paul is saying *"I don't doubt"*. When you have Christ you have no doubt. You will be without doubt and without fear of death and fear of life. Paul says *"I don't doubt, it can be life, it can be death"*. When



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you listen to this you can ask a question: "*Why should I fear life?*" This life is scary. This life is dangerous! Paul says "*I am not afraid of death*". The problem is you are afraid of death and not life.

Let me ask you a question: Between life and death what will you choose? Between life and death which is better? Death is better than life. I am not saying go and commit suicide and say the pastor says death is better than life. The bible says "*cursed is the man who hangs on a tree*". If you commit suicide, your home is hell. There are no negotiations, the reason you run straight to hell is you have killed something you have never created and therefore if you kill you go straight to hell. This bible text talks about natural death. In the case of natural death you don't know what caused the death.

Between life and death I can choose death, as long as the death comes from God, I choose to go home. This world owes us nothing. It never promised anybody anything. Did this planet promise you anything? If you choose life this planet will give you that life, if death, it'll give you death.

Paul continues to "*I have no doubt*", "*...neither death nor life, nor angels...*" **Rom 8:38. AMP**. Angels included, they can't tell me. Even principalities, they can't separate me from the love of God. At school the principal is the head of the school, the final word at the school. The bible says the principalities can't do you anything. When we talk about the principalities, we talk about the devil himself, the bible says we have defeated the devil and his principalities. There are still people who are being threatened by witches and wizards and they lose



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sleep over these threats.

Rom 8:38 "***nor things impending***" **AMP**. There are people who are scared by things. The devil will scare you, especially when he sees you love the things of this world. The bible says the tests will come to see who you are. Some who can be shaken will end up saying "***I will even stop going to that silly small church***" because of fear.

There are people who pray pastors and make them an idol but Paul says there is nothing in this planet that can separate me from the love of God.

Rom 8:39 "***39 Nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.***" **AMP**.

Look at what David says in **Ps 44:22** "***22 Yet for Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.***" **NKJV**. By who? The evil one who is planning your death, who wants to see your downfall, whose ear is ready to hear that a Christian has fallen. When they say the real one who is a conqueror has been killed by the demons, the devil will grieve and punish the demons that have killed that person, that real Christian.

Close your eyes and ask yourself: What can separate me with the love of God?" Pray for the grace to remain true to Christ and to His love.



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