**Romans 8:35-39**

Introduction

I. In a word, Romans 8 is about “Security”

II. What makes you feel secure in life? What makes you feel insecure/anxious in life?

Financial security, relational security, health, political security, predictability, etc.?

III. Paul gives us the greatest source of security of all: the unbreakable love of Christ

The Passage

I. The source of our security = love of God

A. Described as the “Love of Christ” (v. 35)

We see his love in v. 34 (he died for us and is actively interceding for us)

B. Described as Love of God the Father:

We see his love in v. 32 (willing to give up his only son)

C. This is the strongest most wonderful reality in the universe.

The all-powerful, all-sovereign, all-holy God of the universe has chosen to love us

II. Paul raises possible threats to that security

A. Persecution (v. 35-36)

1. Some of these feel theoretical for us living in Orange County in 2013, but these were not theoretical for Paul (see 1 Cor 4:11-13 and 2 Cor 6:4-5) or for the people of God at other times (see Psalm 44)

2. Paul quotes form Psalm 44 in v. 36, which is a Psalm in which Israel is suffering not as a result of their sin but even as a consequence to their faithfulness to God

B. Paul goes beyond persecution to any trouble we might experience in this fallen world (v. 38-39)

III. The good news is that we can have great security in spite of these things

A. Negatively, they cannot separate us from the love of God (v. 39)

1. As painful, challenging, frustrating, discouraging as they are, God’s love remains intact in the midst of them

2. Paul literally says “I have become convinced” implying he’s learned through repeated experience that this is true

“Assurance grows by repeated conflict, by our repeated experimental proof of the Lord's power and goodness to save.  It grows when we have been brought very low and helped, when we have been sorely wounded and healed, when we have been cast down and raised again, and when we have given up all hope and been suddenly snatched from danger and placed in safety.  Over time we begin to learn to trust simply to the word and power of God, even beyond appearances; and this trust, when habitual and strong, bears the name of assurance.”

B. Positively, we are “more than conquerors” through these (v. 37)

1. Literally: “Hyper-conquerors” = overwhelming victory is ours

2. How can we possibly have overwhelming victory through these challenges?

a. Clearly, this does not mean we have victory FROM these challenges in the sense that God removes them from our lives

b. Rather, we have victory IN THE MIDST OF them

1) See Paul’s personal example of the thorn in the flesh in 2 Corinthians 12:7-10. God used the thorn to 1) draw Paul closer to Jesus in a relationship of dependence and 2) make Paul more like Jesus by forming humility in him. So the thorn actually worked beautiful things in Paul’s life

2) This is how we conquer in the midst of trials—because the trials actually become instruments to bring us closer to Jesus and make us more like him.

c. The key to conquering is to do it “through him who loved us”

We don’t do it in our own strength but through his love which is so powerful and can hold us through the trial

Conclusion

What if we were fully convinced that God’s love will never let us go, and what if God’s love was enough for us?