

**Week of July 26, 2020**

**Romans 8:26-39 (NRSV)**

<sup>26</sup> Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.

<sup>27</sup> And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

<sup>28</sup> We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

<sup>29</sup> 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 within a large family.

<sup>30</sup> And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

<sup>31</sup> What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us?

<sup>32</sup> He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else?

<sup>33</sup> Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.

<sup>34</sup> Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.

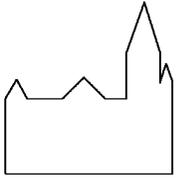
<sup>35</sup> Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

<sup>36</sup> As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

<sup>37</sup> No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

<sup>38</sup> For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,

<sup>39</sup> 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.



### Group Leader

Remember: you don't need to use all of the questions. Go with what works. Give people a chance to think before answering, but if a question falls flat, move on. Let the discussion go where it needs to go, as long as it remains centered around the lesson. Give the participants page 1. Use this page for yourself.

### Gathering questions:

- A. Can you think of something silly that you simply misunderstood for years before you found out what it really was? (Here's an example from Pastor Rich: in the second verse of Deck The Halls, I thought "see the blazing yule" was "see the blazing mule" – for years.)
- B. Describe an incident when you either went to the wrong place, or went to the right place at the wrong time.

### Bible Study Questions:

1. In verse 26, why do you think the Spirit intercedes "with sighs too deep for words"? What is the significance of that?
2. Thinking of verse 26, when was there a time when you were so bewildered that you didn't even know what to pray for?
3. In verse 37, what does the phrase "more than conquerors" mean to you?
4. Have you ever felt that you could be separated from the love of God? Have you ever actually felt separated from God's love?
5. Verse 38 begins with Paul saying "For I am convinced..." What do you think convinced Paul? Was it theological logic or life experience? What has (or could) convince you that you cannot be separated from the love of God?
6. In verse 31, what does it mean to you that God is "for you"? How does that change your outlook on life?

Closing prayer: particularly invite prayers that remind us that God is FOR you