

## Who Shall Separate Us?

### Commentary for December 1, 2019 — Only We Can Separate Us from Christ's Love

The article for December 2019 is titled "Losing Your Salvation." Read first, as always, the "[December 2019 Newsletter](#)." The four words in the title of this Commentary are from Romans 8:35 and I will elaborate on that passage. God has planned and **"works all things after the counsel of his own will: [why?] That we should be to the praise of his glory"** (Ephesians 1:11–12). God wills to save every human being (1 Timothy 2:4–6, 4:10). The Old Covenant saints, New Testament saints, and those of us saints within God's grace of the Mystery who are alive at present, we are especially blessed to be predestinated to learn God's truth in our lifetimes. In Romans 8:35, the apostle Paul asks a question,

**"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?"**

Nothing external to us can affect the love of God the Father toward us. He has already justified us to Himself so that we are no longer viewed by Him as being sinners. On our part, the truth of God has made us free (John 8:32). Christ qualified that freedom,

**"... many believed on him. Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, "**

- [1] **If you continue in my word,**
- [2] **then are you my disciples indeed; And**
- [3] **you shall know the truth, and**
- [4] **the truth shall make you free."**

• **John 8:31–32**

Jesus presented that information to those who asked Him a question, and who believed His answer and other teachings, all before His crucifixion. To reverse what Jesus said to put them in the order they occur in the lives of believers:

- [3] **"you shall [learn and then] know the truth";**
- [4] **"the truth shall make you free";**
- [2] **"then are you" Christ's "disciples";**
- [1] **"if you continue in His word" you will be His "disciples indeed."**

If you **do not** **"continue in His word,"** you could miss the early resurrection and glory of the Kingdom of God (as this month's article shows). God's salvation through Christ's actions will not change; your connection to God will not change; your relationship to Christ will not change. Nothing external to you can affect their relationship toward you (Romans 8:35–39).

But **you** can choose to return to the "slavery" of sin (John 8:34–36; Romans 6:16–17). You are free to reject God and Christ. That can result in **[1]** your being resurrected to glory **NOT** at Christ's return, but later, and **[2]** receiving a greatly reduced reward when you are glorified. Both will be horrific losses to you compared to the gift offered to you now. Instead ...

**“For, brethren, you have been called unto liberty [freedom]; only use not liberty [freedom] for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.**

... **Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.** For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the spirit [lusts] against the flesh:

and these are contrary the one to the other: so that you cannot do the things that you would. But **if you be led of the Spirit, you are not under the law.**

Now the works of the flesh are manifest [evident], which are these;

adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance [strife], emulations [jealousies], wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, enviousness, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like:

of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that **they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.**

But the fruit of the Spirit is

love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance:

against such there is no law. And they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.”

• *Galatians 5:13, 16–25, English Standard Version*

Dr. Ernest L. Martin explains from his book (free online), [The Essentials of New Testament Doctrine](#), Chapter 11, “[What Is Grace?](#)”

God tries to rescue His people from falling into a lifestyle of wrong living. We read further in the Book of Hebrews:

**“For whom the Lord loves, he chastens, and scourges, every son whom he receives.”**

• *Hebrews 12:6*

And God can chastise severely, but not now.

**“Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in his goodness: otherwise you also shall be cut off.”**

• *Romans 11:22*

Without actively trying to practice right living principles, people can be “cut off” from such rewards as the Kingdom of God. This does not mean that the grace of God would be thwarted and people will not eventually be saved. Before these dire warnings were given in the Book of Hebrews, the author was aware that God **“has perfected FOREVER them that are sanctified”** (Hebrews 10: 14). Ultimate salvation is something all humanity will experience. That is something that has been secured by Christ for mankind without the works of man (either good or bad) being involved. Yes, everyone will be saved and brought to a full knowledge of the truth of God (1 Timothy 2: 4).

No one should think we ever are saved through chastisement or punishment. We are saved by the love and Grace of God through Christ’s faith.

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