

Our Security In Christ

The following article is the first in a series of Discussions on the subject of "Our Security In Christ".

Question: *What does Romans 8:35-39 reveal to the Christian concerning his security in Christ?*

I have read and treasure the works of the great prophecy teacher, the late H.A. Ironside, yet I find we differ in our views on the security of the believer. In his writings, Rev. Ironside reveals his total love and commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ; and I have full confidence he was a true born-again minister of The Lord Jesus. So we have two different views from two different sold out Christians yet we are one in our commitment to the longevity of salvation. How could this be?

Answer: I know by reading Rev. Ironside that, if he were still living, he would if required, be willing to die for Christ; and I found no indication in his writings that he used his doctrine to commit and excuse sins in his life. To me, this minister's goal was to dwell in the presence of the Lord while on earth – then walk into His Kingdom with joy and confidence for eternal rewards at the seat of the Master. Of this I am confident. Read his statement:

"It has been announced that I will speak to you on a subject which has occasioned a good deal of controversy among the people of God. I want to take as a starting point--not exactly as a text, because we shall be looking at a good many Scriptures – Romans 8:38-39 (KJV): *"For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor power, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."* This is the inspired answer to the question of verse 35: *"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?"* That is, once we have been justified by faith, who is there, what power is there, that can separate from the love of Christ? And the answer, how full, how clear, not a shadow, not a doubt, not a question left, when the apostle says that neither death nor life shall separate! Can you think of anything which is neither included in death nor in life? Neither death nor life shall separate!

"No unseen powers can separate the believer from Christ, "neither angels, nor principalities, nor powers." These terms are used again and again in the New Testament, particularly in the Epistles, for angelic hosts, good and evil. When our Savior rose from the dead He spoiled principalities and powers, that is, He defeated all the hosts of evil led by Satan; and so we may take it that the angels referred to here are good angels, and the principalities and powers are possible evil angels. But there is nothing that good angels would do and nothing that evil angels can do which will result in the separation of the believer from Christ. And then further he says, "neither things present nor things to come." Again let me put the question, Can you think of any experience through which a believer might ever go which is neither a thing present nor a thing to come? And the Holy Ghost says that neither things present nor things to come shall be able to

separate us from the love of Christ. As though that were not enough, He speaks in a more general way when He says that neither “Height nor depth (nothing in heaven, nothing in hell), nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” It looks to me as though we are safe if we are believers in the Lord Jesus Christ.”

Rev. Ironside omitted a portion of this passage from Romans (see if you can find it) and for the most part, those who strongly argue eternal security seem to be those whose lives have not radically changed since they claimed ownership to salvation. The point? Many have not learned to hate sin because they believe it to be impossible to stop sinning. They often do not realize that Jesus, when he ascended to the right hand of the Father, left His supernatural authority and power with His Church – to continue what He began – *in the destruction of the works of the devil*. Didn’t know that? (See Mark 16:15-18; Luke 9:1; Luke 24:46-40; Acts 1:8; 1 John 3:8).

Many believers still go to bars, watch raw television and love to hold onto some old lifestyles. But I also know many who have put away their sin; though they acknowledge making occasional errors, they do not practice sinning. They have learned to heed Paul’s teachings for the Church to “*..let not sin any longer have dominion over you*” (Ps 19:13; 119:133; Rom 6:9; Rom 6:14).

We who are fully committed to Christ, saved by faith through the spilled, precious blood of the Lamb, know in our hearts that Jesus is our Master, Lord and Saviour. Our entire commitment to righteousness and holiness is real and honorable. We have determined to never be lax concerning our walk with Christ...”by His Spirit, and *not* by the flesh” (Romans 8:1; and 8:4 KJV)

Let us consider *everything* Paul stated in Romans 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 thy sake we are killed all the day long, we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.*** (37) “*Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that 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 creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

I bolded and italicized the portion of the scripture (above) which most of eternal security persons always omit from that passage! Note that Mr. Ironside also omitted the same passage.

So, if we include the entire passage, who was Paul really speaking about? He’s speaking about those whose lives are fully committed to righteousness and holiness because they have learned by the study of the Word of God overcomers will face tribulations and persecutions (distresses), famine, nakedness (the poor and sickly), peril (dangers), and murder (killed by the sword). Those who are overcomers can claim victory over the enemy of their souls – even as they face slaughter by those who believe Christians are their enemy – soon to be at a theater near you!

Therefore, simply by including the highlighted passage in the Apostles’ statement above, it will actually qualify the interpretation as given by Rev. Ironside. But without verses 34 through verses 36, the remainder of the passage means nothing to those who continue in willed sinning.

“It is appointed for man once to die, but after that, the judgment” (Hebrews 9:27).

Therefore, In Romans 8, was the Apostle teaching an UNCONDITIONAL security when he said, "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord?"

Paul did not say, "You cannot separate yourself." Neither did he say, "Sin cannot separate you." We know from Scripture sin will separate us from God. *"But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear"* (Isaiah 59:2). Paul was in no sense of the word attempting to teach the Romans that it would be impossible for them to be unfaithful and finally be lost, *but was merely giving security to the faithful.*

The Apostle knew as his day so his strength would be, and he intended to be faithful. Other Christians may have the same assurance; not because they believe it impossible for them to backslide and to perish, but because they know God will never leave nor forsake them while they live as they were then living, and as they determined to live to the end. Paul also said, *"we are not of them who draw back unto perdition;"* (Hebrews 10:39). but this does not prove that a Christian will not or cannot draw back, rather he plainly implies that some do so.

The Apostle says, though we may face tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, peril, sword, death, life, angels, principalities, powers, things present, things to come, height, depth, or any other creature, these things in themselves cannot separate us from the love of God; **and what those who believe Eternal Security have missed in this scripture, is that. . .**

. . . *“Those who are willing to go through all these things for the sake of their God...are the same ones who have real security in Christ Jesus. Yet, it seems Eternal Security people do not believe in connecting Romans 8:38,39 with Romans 8:34-37.*

Odd, isn't it?

***“And ye shall be hated of all [men] for my name's sake:
but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.”*** (Matthew 10:22).

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