

---

*Wednesday Night GEL Group Online*

---

When I was a child and we went to large shopping centres, I had some fear (perhaps a healthy one) that I might get lost in amongst all the display areas and would find myself separated from my parents and brother. As we walked around the clothes racks and areas of a large store, I always kept my parents in line of sight. This was so I never felt separated or lost. I never wanted to be in the state of being alone as a small child.

In life, is there a sense of being lost? There are many mechanisms that help us with Government benefits, pensions, and the like. But let's go a bit deeper. If sin has separated us from God, and he is right to condemn us, what is the mechanism in place where we can be saved from condemnation. In other words, living eternally separated from God?

Let's continue our study of Romans 8 and really notice what Paul is teaching us and the good news of God's love for us in Jesus Christ His Son.

Let's give thanks to God and read Romans 8:31-39

1. One way of looking at this section is to label it "The great plan of God". How does this label fit the passage?
2. If God is for us, who or what is it that can be against us?
3. What do you think Paul meant by "how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?" Is it possible this could be misconstrued?
4. The questions of verses 34 and 35 shift the focus of Paul's writings by introducing Christ's love into the picture. How does Paul do this and what is the point he is trying to make?
5. How do we read verse 35 when we know of and can see the evidence of Christian suffering and persecution? In the light of Scripture, what does the gospel mean to you in the day to day? How does it shape you day by day? Does verse 36 provide us with hope?
6. Does verse 38 bring more perspective to this in terms of now and the future?

7. When we consider verse 38, let's break down the various points and discuss them. What does it mean to you that it is impossible to get beyond God's loving reach?
  
8. Paul's emphatic statement that no spiritual being can separate us from the love of God is needed in the church today. As C.S. Lewis claims, we tend to either ignore Satan or give him too much credit. In this passage tonight, we need to recognise and praise God that in Christ the victory has been over the power to keep us from inheriting the salvation God has promised to all who love him. What does it mean then to be more than conquerors through him who loved us? (Verse 37)
  
9. However, we also see that there is still a spiritual influence we are at war with hence the need to put on the spiritual armour of God as seen in Ephesians 6. Has Paul contradicted himself in his letter? Or is there an overall picture in Paul's teachings?
  
10. What is the assurance we have then today and for our future?
  
11. Let's pray together.