

WHAT CAN SEPARATE ME?

by Michael Blankenship

Romans 8:35-39 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? [shall] tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. 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.

*** Song ***

OH LOVE OF GOD, HOW RICH & PURE, HOW MEASURELESS & SURE. IT SHALL FOREVER MORE ENDURE, THE SAINTS & ANGELS SONG!

We need a revelation of God's Love toward us! IT IS AWESOME!
It was that love that drew us to him!

I John 4:7-12 Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son [to be] the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in his love, and us is perfected in us.

THERE IS NO ROOM FOR A SPITEFUL, MEAN SPIRITED ATTITUDE IN THE BODY!

Love will break chains that nothing else can break!

I Corinthians 13:4-7 Charity suffereth long, [and] is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

LOVE WILL CARRY LOADS THAT NO OTHER EMOTION WILL CARRY!

That's why I must stay connected to that Love!

I Corinthians:12-13 For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these [is] charity.

WE DO NOT UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENS! I JUST KEEP LOVING GOD!

--- Knowing one day I will know things - as well as God knows me! ---

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Love rejoiceth in truth! -----> IF YOU LOVE JESUS, YOU MUST LOVE TRUTH

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

III John 1:3 For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth.

Satan is involved in trying to separate you from God's love & truth!
It even seems that all of life is trying to separate us from God!

WHO -- shall separate us? THE PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FOLLOWING!

TRIBULATION: "a state of anguish or pain that tests one's resiliency or character"

DISTRESS: "a state of physical or mental suffering"

"Care, anxiety, worry"

I Samuel 30:6 And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God.

IF THE ONLY VOICE YOU HEAR IS PEOPLE - YOU'LL LIVE DISTRESSED!

II Corinthians 4:6-9 For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to [give] the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us. [We are] troubled on every side, yet not distressed; [we are] perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed;

PERSECUTION: "Excruciating punishment" - "torture, hell, torment" We are persecuted. BUT NOT FORSAKEN! Hebrews 13:5 [Let your] conversation [be] without covetousness; [and be] content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

FAMINE: "a drastic, wide reaching shortage of food" - "scarcity"

NAKEDNESS: "the state of being without clothes" = scarcity!

Matthew 6:25-27 Therefore I say unto you, take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall not drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them.

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Are ye not much better than they? Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?

PERIL: "exposure to possible harm, loss or injury" "danger, risk or hazard"

Acts 15:24-26 Forasmuch as we have heard, that certain which went out from us have troubled you with words, subverting your souls, saying, [Ye must] be circumcised, and keep the law: to whom we gave no [such] commandment: It seemed good unto us, being assembled with one accord, to send chosen men unto you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, Men that have hazarded their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

THESE ARE THE FRONT LINE WARRIORS OF JESUS NAME TRUTH!

SWORD: "the use of force as in a war or battle" --TEKLAMARIAN "a symbol of power & authority" -- Gov't oppression

WE ARE KILLED ALL THE DAY LONG... COUNTED AS SHEEP FOR THE SLAUGHTER. Is that the attitude of the church?

VERSE 37: Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. Philippians 4:11-13 Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, [therewith] to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

T E X T : Romans 8:38-39 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.

IT IS TIME FOR THE CHURCH TO BECOME PERSUADED!

LISTEN TO THIS FOCUSED MAN NAMED PAUL!

Acts 20:22-24 And now, behold, I go bound in the spirit unto Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there: Save that the Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions abide me. But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

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BUT THERE IS SOMETHING THAT CAN SEPARATE US!

The only thing not mentioned... our past!

Jeremiah 31:33-34 But this [shall be] the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

*** DISCUSS THE AWESOME POWER OF FORGIVENESS IN RELATION TO SPIRITUAL POSSESSION & OPPRESSION! You can not forgive what you refuse to face!)

Matthew 6:14-15 For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.