

A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED ON PAUL'S LETTER TO THE CHURCH IN ROME

YOU SHALL BE VICTORIOUS

Romans 8:35-37 "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: "For Your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us."

St. Paul asks another question in today's devotional verses, "Who can separate (you) from the love of Christ?" He then mentions a number of situations that occur in life that can create a wedge between you and Jesus including the many troubles that come into your life. Perhaps not you but some believers will be persecuted because of their faith in Him. No matter what are the potential negative issues that can come into your life, you ". . . are more than (a) conqueror through Him who love(s) (you)."

No one looks forward to troubles, problems, physical attack, persecution, and the host of other negative things that occur in this sin filled world. Some believe that since they are Christians none of these negative things will come into their lives. No where in the Bible are you promised a trouble-free life. What God does promise you is His constant presence (Matthew 28:20), His help in times when these troubles come your way (Psalm 55:22; Isaiah 41:10), unconditional love (Ephesians 2:8-10) and eternal life (John 3:16). You have His word through the pen of St. Paul, ". . . in all these things we (you) are more than conquerors through Him who loved us (you)."

Stephen, unjustly accused of false teaching by Jewish enemies was dragged out into the country and stoned to death. As he was being stoned to death he prayed, "'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' Then he fell on his knees and cried out, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' When he had said this, he fell asleep." (Acts 7:59-60) As Stephan faced death confident of his faith in Jesus, so you have been given the same faith to face whatever comes into your life for Jesus' sake.

Prayer: Lord, grant me faith to live and die confident in the victory of eternal life You have promised me. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Sing with all the saints in glory, Sing the resurrection song!
Death and sorrow, earth's dark story, To the former days belong.

All around the clouds are breaking; Soon the storms of time shall cease;
In God's likeness we awaken, Knowing everlasting peace.

Oh, what glory, far exceeding All that eye has yet perceived!
Holiest hearts for ages pleading Never that full joy conceived.
God has promised, Christ prepares it; There on high our welcome waits.
Ev'ry humble spirit shares it, Christ has passed the eternal gates.

Life eternal! Heav'n rejoices: Jesus lives who once was dead.
Shout with joy, O deathless voices! Child of God, lift up your head!
Life eternal! Oh, what wonders Crowd on faith; what joy unknown,
When, amid earth's closing thunders, Saints shall stand before the throne!
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