

Lent Day 20

Thursday March 23

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Reading: Romans 8: 31-39

³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? ³³ Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies; ³⁴ who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ Just as it is written,

*"FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG;
WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED."*

³⁷ But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Reflection

During Lent 2008 my sister Gwen, passed away after 5 years of constant fighting with Inflammatory Breast Cancer. We spent many dark days together while she cried out to God "Why Me?" She would also worry that she might lose her place in heaven because of her anger with Him. Tossed between this anger and worry was a very dark place indeed. She knew the love of her saviour; she was an obedient servant for the Lord, using her gifts whenever she was needed. She sang, ran a small group, always noticed those being left out after church, had many in to her home for a home cooked meal and was willing to show up and pull weeds at the church. Gwen knew her bible and knew the promises it held for all who call on his name yet Death tried to steal her inner peace. I asked her if now at the end of her days Christianity made sense.....she said "It is the only thing that makes sense!"

We have no confidence in our own goodness, we fail every day and we wait for others to let us down. No one can live a perfect life our human nature makes us weak and unworthy of what Christ did for us. Gods plan was for Christ to pay the price of our sin. Once we call on his name and believe He is the Messiah. Once we cross the line from unbeliever to believer. Change our address and postal code. Leave the old place behind. We are in Christ covered by the price He paid for sin. We know this was not cheap because it cost God his only son. Yet we are safe, where Paul says nothing can separate us from the love of God.

When I get to heaven my sister has promised to be there holding the door. Oh what a day that will be!

Prayer

Thank you God that nothing can separate us from your everlasting, unchanging, invincible love. We are so thankful that you loved us enough to send your Son to pay the price for our sin so we can stand confident in your love knowing that our debt is paid.