

September 12, 2004
A.M. Service
Patchogue Church of the Nazarene

“Victory In Jesus”
Rom 8:30-39 NLT

And having chosen them (us), he (God) called them (us) to come to him. And he gave them (us) right standing with himself, and he promised them (us) his glory.

31 What can we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us? 32 Since God did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't God, who gave us Christ, also give us everything else?

33 Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? Will God? No! He is the one who has given us right standing with himself. 34 Who then will condemn us? Will Christ Jesus? No, for he is the one who died for us and was raised to life for us and is sitting at the place of highest honor next to God, pleading for us.

35 Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or are hungry or cold or in danger or threatened with death? 36(Even the Scriptures say, "For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep.") 37 No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.

38 And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from his love. Death can't, and life can't. The angels can't, and the demons can't. Our fears for today, our worries about tomorrow, and even the powers of hell can't keep God's love away. 39 Whether we are high above the sky or in the deepest ocean, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Do you yearn? Forget about all the superficial, material things. It is not so much those things as what we think they will give us. What we all yearn for is love, security, and significance. And we yearn for victory over the things that causes us to feel a lose of love, security and significance. Do you need victory? Is there something in your life you need to conquer? These verses say we can be more than conquerors; we can have overwhelming victory. The Greek word used here is one word that gets its meanings from two different Greek words put together. One part to the word comes from a Greek word meaning: *above, beyond, exceeding, abundant, more than*. The other part of the word comes from a Greek word that means: *to subdue, conquer, overcome, prevail, get the victory*. So it is not just to overcome or get the victory, it is above and beyond that; it is to have overwhelming victory. There are battles that are barely won and others that were overwhelming victories. There are elections that are close and some that are landslide victories. We say it was an overwhelming victory. Our softball team won the championship in a close game that we won by the score of 14 to 13. But during the year there were some games that...well, let's just say that the league has a mercy rule (after

the 5th inning if one team is winning by 15 or more runs the umpire mercifully ends the game). We won a few games that way this season they were not just victories they were overwhelming victories. On those nights if you asked us if we won the reply would have been, “We didn’t just win we ‘mercied’ them.” There are victories we need in life that are far more important than a softball game (though some of our team members may disagree with that). We need victory over physical habits and sins, we need victory over negative emotions, *and* we need victory over personality traits that we’ve developed in order to protect and preserve our life, which instead has done just the opposite, its taken life from us. What I mean is that we’ve been wounded in some way and we have perfected a strategy of living to protect ourselves from being hurt in that way again. Even if we have been somewhat successful in doing that, we have lost something. We’ve lost heart. So, this morning I want to talk about ...

Victory:

1. It’s Source (v31-34)

(v31) If God is for us, who can ever be against us? God is for us means that God loves us. God’s love revealed in Christ. (v32) God did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, (and since He did that) won’t God, who gave us Christ, also give us everything else? God is our Father. Fathers (and mothers) think about that. You love your child more than you love anyone or anything else in this world. That’s how God feels about you. You would do anything for your child ...even die for them. That is what God has literally done. You will certainly meet all their needs. You love to be with them, spend time with them. You laugh with them and cry with them. You would always be there for them when needed. You are proud of them. How much more does God think that way about you? What you really yearn for is God. Only He gives true love, security and significance. The love of God is the source of your victory.

But for God to be the source of your victory you must first surrender your life to Him. You must yield your life to the One who is your life. Invite Jesus into your problem, your pain, your wound.

Then let God love you. Get past just the mental acknowledgement that God loves you. Let yourself receive His love for you. Let your heart come home to Him, let your heart accept love.

Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? Will God? No! He is the one who has given us right standing with himself? And who else dares to accuse us when God has made us right with Himself? Who then will condemn us? Will Christ Jesus? No, for he is the one who died for us and was raised to life for us and is sitting at the place of highest honor next to God, pleading for us. There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Who will condemn us if we believe Jesus died and was raised for us and now interceding, pleading and praying for us? God loves you! Your safe and secure and important. He has chosen you, called you to come to Him, He has made you right with Him and He’s promised you His glory.

What can we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us? Surrender to Him and in your heart, in the core of who you are receive that love, for the love of God is the source of your victory.

2. It's Scope (v35, 38-39)

It's scope is everything in life and death.

35 Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or are hungry or cold or in danger or threatened with death? No matter what we are going through God loves us and His love is the source of our victory. So if we stay connected to Him, and receive life and love from Him and trust in that love we will have victory over times of trouble, or if we are persecuted, or are hungry or cold or in danger or even threatened with death. For as Paul says in v38 And I (too) am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from his love. Death can't, and life can't. The angels can't, and the demons can't. Our fears for today, our worries about tomorrow, and even the powers of hell can't keep God's love away. (v39) Whether we are high above the sky or in the deepest ocean that is the scope of God's love and therefore our hope for victory. We have victory in all things because our source of victory is the love of God which is from high above the sky to the deepest part of the ocean.

[We are more than conquerors] We gain the victory. That is, they have not (nothing in life or in death has the) power to subdue us; to alienate our love and confidence; to produce apostasy (to cause us to fall away from the Lord). We are the victors, not they (not trouble or calamity, or persecution, or hunger or cold or danger or death or the threat of death). Our faith is not destroyed; our love is not diminished; our hope is not blasted. But it is not simple victory; it is not mere life, and continuance of what we had before; it is more than simple triumph; it augments (adds to) our faith, increases our strength, expands our love to Christ. The word used here is a strong, emphatic expression... (overwhelming victory)....

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3. It's Secret (v37,39)

Overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us (and) nothing will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The source of overwhelming victory in our life and in death is Christ and His love for us *and* nothing...nothing can separate us from His love.