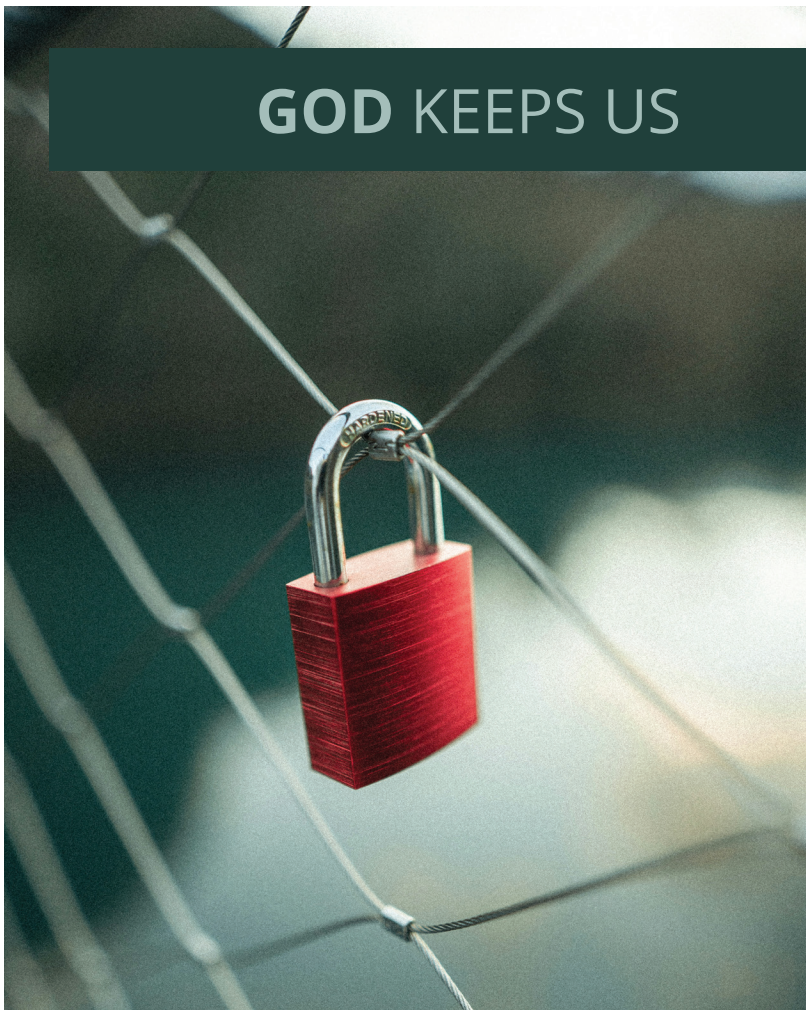


# GOD KEEPS US



Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:28-30





## GOD KEEPS US

Romans 8:28–30

The Christian life is to be lived by faith. This entails faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ and in his resurrection. Yet saving faith in Christ also rests in the benefits of his work and person. The ultimate benefit is that we are reconciled to God, and this means that we have a restored covenant relationship with him. He has done this because he loved us from all eternity in Christ.

There are times, however, when the hardships of life (which God ordains and controls) are too much for us. These try our faith and are intended to do so. Paul lists a host of situations and powers that come against us that we do not naturally welcome. We can even doubt whether God loves us when such trials come upon us. Paul's question is to get us to think deeply about these matters. When distressing things occur in our lives, they cannot separate us from the love that the Father and the Son have for us.

The Christian life is not lived by avoiding or cowering from such disquiet. Rather in the certainty of God's inseparable love, we can face distress. In fact, as we bear up under a diversity of hardships we share in Christ's sufferings. Paul references Psalm 44:22 to make this very point. As we endure trials by faith in Christ, we follow in his steps and in this sense, we are likened to sheep being herded to our deaths. Yet, this is the call of Christ for

each of our lives: to daily deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow him. As we live through hardships by faith in Christ, we not only endure but "are more than conquerors through him who loved us!"

We can face such trials and foes head on with the assurance that such things will never separate us from the love of our triune God.

### **THIS WEEK, AS YOU PRAY:**

- Meditating on Romans 8:15–17, ask the Holy Spirit to affirm that you are a dearly loved child of God.
- Pray that the Holy Spirit would work this assurance into the hearts of your family and your church.
- Pray that the Father by the Spirit would give you courage in the hardships you face to remain faithful to Christ.
- Praise God for his great love for you in Christ and pray he would assure you of the truths found in today's text.