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WEEK 6 Grace Changes Everything

PRAYER

Thank you, Lord, for being my Father and forgiving all my sins, not because I deserve it, but because Christ died in my place to pay the price for my sins — all of them. Thank you for all you have done for me, and that my future glorification is as equally complete in Christ as my past justification when I first trusted Jesus as my Saviour. Thank you that because I am in Christ, you are 'for me.' Let me never forget that amazing truth. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

From <u>Prayer Knowing Jesus</u>



What is the most precious gift that anyone ever gave to you, that other people may not see as having the same value? Why does it mean so much to you?

NOTES





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WORD

³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ³³ Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written,

"For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered."

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ 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 8:31-39

God is for us, says Paul, having given his own Son for "all of us" (Rom. 8:31–32). Nothing is able to come between us and the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord (Rom. 8:35–39). "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" (Rom. 8:38–39). Many of these things seem to threaten us in the sphere of work. We face menacing or incompetent bosses (rulers).

We get stuck in dead-end jobs (things present). We make sacrifices now—working long hours, taking classes after work, serving in low-paid internships, moving to another country looking for work—that we hope will pay off later, but may never pan out (things to come). We lose our jobs because of economic cycles or regulations or unscrupulous actions by powerful people we never even see (powers). We are forced by circumstance, folly, or the crimes of others into degrading or dangerous work. All these things can do us real hurt. But they cannot triumph over us.

Christ's faithfulness—and ours, by God's grace—overcomes the worst that life and work can do to us. If career progress, income, or prestige is our highest goal at work, we may end up disappointed. But if salvation—that is, reconciliation with God and people, faithfulness, and justice—is our chief hope, then we will find it amid both the good and bad in work. Paul's affirmations mean that no matter what the difficulties we encounter with our work, or the complexities and challenges we face with co-workers or superiors in our workplaces, the love of God in Christ always abides with us. The love of God in Christ is the steadying force in the midst of adversity now, as well as our hope for bodily redemption in the future.

Nothing Can Come Between Us and the Love of God (Romans 8:31-39)

► GUIDE QUESTIONS

(NUMBERED ACCORDING TO LEVEL OF DEPTH AND READINESS TO SHARE)

- 1. On a scale from 1-10 (1 = none at all; 10 = always), how would you rate your sense of God's love for you? How might this differ from what you read in today's Bible passage?
- 2. "If God is for us, who can be against us?" (vs 31). What does this mean to you? Do you trust that God is for you?
- 3. God did not spare his Son for you. He does not hold anything back from you (vs 32). Do you believe this to be true? Why or why not?
- 4. Absolutely nothing can separate you from the love of God. If you know God loves you, what does this mean in the way you might live and love others? Do you see this in your life?
- 5. Would you like to trust God and that he loves you as his child, and that he is for you? Would you like to receive the gift of life forever in God, as you enter into a saving relationship with God through Jesus? Ask your Life Group leader to lead you in prayer to receive Christ. You can pray this prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner, and I ask for your forgiveness. I believe you died for my sins and rose from the dead. I turn from my sins and invite you to come into my heart and life. I want to trust and follow you as my Lord and Saviour. In Jesus' name, Amen.

PRAYER

