

**Tuesday, March 31, 2020**  
**Devotional Thoughts from Pastor Jim Murr...**

**"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: 38-39)*

To me, this is probably the most powerful, over-arching promise in the Bible! In just a few words it tells what God does NOT promise as well as what He DOES promise. It is clear that God does NOT promise that difficult or even scary times will not come. We should all be reminded of this fact, especially at a time such as this in our nation and world.

So many things are being threatened because of this virus, chief of which are many lives. But even those who will never contract this disease have been and will be impacted by it. It has impacted, and will continue to impact, our economy as well as individual livelihoods. All that is going on right now is enough to cause people, including life-long Christians, to wonder where God is at a time like this. Those who pray are no doubt praying that God would put an end to this invisible enemy. I know that has been my prayer!

What I love about the words in the passage above is that it covers everything. It tells us that no matter what is happening ... no matter how bad things become in this life, the ONE THING we can always be certain of – the ONE THING that will never change or be taken away – is God's love for us as it is expressed in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. In other words, the circumstances of life, and even death, can never become a fence or a barrier between us and God.

Even as tensions mount because of the virus, God is continuously at work to bring about what is best for those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose. Paul writes: "(Nothing) in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."  
Not even a pandemic!

Perhaps we should add another supplication to our prayers in addition to the prayer that God would take this pandemic away. **Perhaps we should pray for God's Kingdom to be expanded during this time. God's Church on earth was made for a time such as this!** People are feeling vulnerable, which often times softens their hearts. We can use this time to be praying that the Holy Spirit would create saving faith in the lives of many unbelievers. As helpless as we may feel right now, we can still pray! We can pray as Jesus taught us to pray: "Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

We are no further from God than we were before this all started! In fact, God draws near to those who call on Him.

God's Peace!  
Pastor Jim