



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC Hope in the Love of God

SPEAKER Pastor Jeffrey Aw

THEME Hope in Hopeless Times

DATE 12 & 13 Dec 2020

MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

As we begin part four of the series *Hope in Hopeless Times* in the month of December, we are reminded of the hope we have because of the gift of Jesus Christ. Expounding on the word from Romans 8:31-39, Pastor Jeffrey expounds how much God loves you and as such, you will live life with hope in God.

Romans 8:31 - 39

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? No one. 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.

Point	Explanation
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Know that God is for us!	Verses 31 and 32 started by asking a rhetorical question. The context of Romans 8 describes the believers' suffering, frustration and groaning as they waited in the hope of Christ's glorious return. The response Paul gave to them is that God is <u>for</u> us, He is on our side. The Greek meaning of 'for' means "over; covering, above and standing on the behalf." Pastor Jeffrey uses the example of air cover for ground troops as they move up the battlefield. Because of sin, we all face the reality of eternal condemnation. However, God provided a way
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out by sending Jesus to take our punishment. By believing in Jesus, we have the hope of eternal life with God. If God gives us His best (his only Son), surely He will give us all things. He is on our side. We trust God, in His perfect knowledge, to give us the best, that is perfectly tailored to us, in His perfect manner and timing.

Know that God vindicates us! Verses 33 and 34 asks the question of who brings charges against us, God's elect. The answer is the Satan – the accuser (Revelation 12:10). Pastor Jeffrey points out that if we keep focusing on our wrongdoing, we can never get out of the cycle of guilt and sin. The remedy is to focus on Jesus Christ, our perfect advocate who paid the price of sin for us. When we believe in Him, our Lord Jesus, at the right hand of God, advocates and intercedes for us so that the charges against us are dismissed by the ultimate Judge – God himself.

Know that God's love is inseparable from us! Verses 35 to 39 starts by asking the question – who can separate us from the love of God? It continues to mention a list of huge obstacles known to man and points out that none, not one, of those can separate us from the love of God. We are more than conquerors in Christ. The Greek meaning of “more than conquerors” is to be over and above victorious.

CONCLUSION

In summary, how do we find Hope in the Love of God? There are three truths we must know, experience and internalise.

Firstly, we must know that God is for us. God wants the best for us. He created us and know us inside out. He has already given His best – Jesus Christ – to us. We simply need to trust and obey Him.

Secondly, God vindicates us. When we focus on sin, there is no hope. But when we shift our focus on Christ, He becomes our hope. We are liberated from sin to do good, things that are pleasing to God.

Finally, we must remember that there is absolutely nothing that can separate us from the love of God. No matter how difficult, inconvenient, hard or troublesome the circumstances we face are, the truth is that we are more than conquerors in Jesus Christ.

QUESTIONS

1. What are the three truths we need to know in order to have hope in the love of God?

2. Which one of the three truths have you personally experienced in the past week? Which one do you struggle to accept?

3. God loves us despite what we have done or will do in our past, present and future. On a scale of 1 to 10 (with 10 being the most convicted), how would you rate your personal conviction? What can you (together with your cell) do to move the rating up?