

### **Justification: In Time – Warfare to Victory**

#### **GOOD Morning OIC,**

The Book of Romans clearly offers Christians supernatural blessings, including a closer walk with Jesus. The Bible teaching in Romans brings out the fact that for a Christian to receive more supernatural blessings, God requires a heart to earnestly attempt to choose to walk in accord with the Spirit. More glorious tastes of God's Presence on Earth are according to God's Will for each life and are to strengthen each one's walk to Glory. As I preached before – and, yes, I am praying that repetition is a *good teacher* – the WORD AND THE SPIRIT, THE SPIRIT AND THE WORD are God's means of causing this maturing in all Christians.

The Scriptures I exegeted last week, in particular from (Romans 8) and (1 Corinthians 2), disclose God is willing to give more “Tastes of His Glory” to Christians on Earth today. I want to encourage Christians to ask and expect more tastes of the Glory to Come while still on Earth.

**These tastes of Glory to Christians are to confirm the WORD: JUSTIFICATION – Jesus' death on The Cross to buy their eternal forgiveness. Their JUSTIFICATION according to God's Plan is Before Time Began - In Time - After Time is No More, as revealed in the Bible. There is no rule or limit regarding a Christian's obedient behavior, or lack of it, on God's sovereign choice to give more experiences in the Holy Spirit to anyone who Believes in Jesus. However, according to (1 Corinthians 2.9), the requirement by God for the “taste of Heavenly Glory” here on Earth, has the “condition” of “All that God has prepared for those who love Him.” God, not other Christians, decides who fits this requirement. This is because the Spirit searches the heart of God's children. Regardless of how much “heart work” you need – and we all need more heart work – don't be afraid to ask for God's glory now. I will attempt in today's message to tell you all why we need God's glory for a fruitful and victorious walk on Earth toward Final Glory.**

**This timeline of last week is in the summary of God's powerful activities in the life of Christians as given in (Romans 8.30) ...*He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.*** This week we find that the Book of Romans makes it clear, that with all our empowering and encouragements from God

through Jesus and by Holy Spirit, that we are not in Heaven yet. I have titled this Message as **Justification: In Time – Warfare to Victory.**

#### TAKEAWAY #1

**God has revealed measures of His Glory to Christians this side of Heaven as written in (1 Corinthians 2.9-10) *but just as it is written, “THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD, AND WHICH HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN, ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM.” 10 For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God.* I am convinced that the more a Christian has tasted the Glory ahead, the better he can fight the good fight here on Earth.**

Now to the Book of Romans-

**(Romans 8.31)** *What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us?* The Amplified Bible-Classic Translation (AMPC) has some helpful comments: **(Romans 8.31/AMPC)** *What then shall we say to [all] this? If God is for us, who [can be] against us? [Who can be our foe, if God is on our side?]* Please, note that the Apostle Paul would not be writing this encouragement for Victory if there were no real foe at all. He writes so as to diminish the fear or doubts in Victory over the *foe*, but not to oversimplify the idea that spiritual warfare is a fact of Victorious Christian Living. Victorious Christian Living for Believers who live their lives attempting to walk in accord with the Spirit, and not in accord with the old sinful flesh.

#### SATAN, OUR ENEMY AND POWERFUL FOE.

Before I discuss more about the Christian’s “foe,” I want to re-emphasize that our inner enemy, our old nature, running wild without diligent prayer, is a more formidable foe than the Devil. That being said, I like a quote (as I can best recall) made by C.S. Lewis, famous Christian author from Great Britain in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> Century. **“Christians either think *too much* or *not enough* about the Devil.”** Since he wrote the famous book *The Screwtape Letters* to reveal the way the devil and his messengers plot against an hypothetical young Christian believer, Lewis must have leaned toward the *“they don't think enough about the Devil”* for 20<sup>th</sup> Century Christians.

**I will highlight Scriptures and some experiences of two of the most influential Apostles of Christ, Paul and Peter, in my next exegesis to answer the question: Why do we need God's Glory here on Earth?**

Now, the Apostle Peter, as C.S. Lewis also desired, wanted the 1<sup>st</sup> Century Christians to be prepared to fight their “foe”, the devil. In (1 Peter 5.8-11/ Mounce) ***Be sober-minded ! (nepho/Greek) Be alert! Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion seeking someone to devour 9***

**Resist him (antihistemi/Greek)**, *steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same kind of sufferings are being endured by your fellow believers throughout the world* 10 *And the God of all grace, the one who has called you into his eternal glory in Christ, will, after you have suffered a little while, himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.* 11 *To him be power for all time. Amen.*

I have high-lighted a few words herein:

- 1) **Be sober-minded** – in the original in Greek the word ***nēphō*** means **clear-headed, circumspect, vigilant.** ***vigilant*** in the Oxford Language/Google Dictionary means *keeping careful watch for possible danger or difficulties.* Synonyms are *watchful, on the lookout, observant, sharp-eyed.* It is clear Peter does not want Christians to forget that there is a “foe” in this world. The Biblical name for him is most often *The Slanderer, the Devil, Satan, Evil One.* Part of our difficulty in being good soldiers is in letting vigilance keep us “uptight” or “fearful.” As a Christian matures, he often senses when God is allowing, yes allowing, Satan to mount a frontal assault on his walk with Jesus. These periods of more intense warfare are less dangerous in one sense than we feel at the time. Peter knew, from his own failure after Jesus' Last Supper, that the greatest danger for a Christian against the Devil, Satan, is to be “lulled to sleep.” Are we afraid of Mountaintop Experiences, thinking that “saints” actually get more “sleepy” or more vulnerable after great blessings from God, including tastes here on Earth of the *Glory to Come* in (1 Cor 2.9-10)? [Do you know what I mean by “Mountaintop Experiences”? These are great experiences – tastes of God’s glory, of victory in the Christian life – that we sometimes experience. Such as when the prophet Elijah had his victory on the top of Mount Carmel against the priests of the false god Ba’al. Or when a Christian today goes to a Christian camp on the mountain and has a wonderful experience of God’s presence. These “mountaintop experiences” are designed to fortify us for the challenges of the Christian life.] Our tastes of Glory here are designed by our Father in Heaven to keep us in the proper focus, to keep pressing ahead for the Goal, **seeing Jesus.** I believe that simply realizing that **“We are not in Heaven yet”** *will make mountaintop experiences accomplish God's purpose.* God sometimes loves to make us “feel good” to trust His love for us. When we experience such “good feelings” He is communicating His love in one of many ways of how He created us, in the SPIRIT. He created us with intelligence something like His own for fellowship in the WORD. The interplay and combination of the WORD and the SPIRIT are all by the Holy Spirit to create a closer walk with Jesus.

2) *resist him* – 3<sup>rd</sup> Highlight from (1Peter 5.9) The Greek word for **to resist**, *anthistēmi*, is very similar to the English medical term “antihistamine,” used of the chemical created in the body (or taken as medicine) to combat allergic reactions. **Fighting the Devil is no joke, but we definitely should treat him as we would a serious allergy to be fought against.** Jesus' little brother, James, gave a concise instruction on fighting Satan. In (James 4.7) *Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.*

I clearly recall when, about 20 years ago, I was in a rather intense period of fighting the Devil. I realized that (James 4.7) has a “condition” on God's forcing the devil, whose power is minute and small when compared against God, to flee from me! “Am I submitted to God?” That is the condition given in God's Word! I was concerned! Although my confidence in being a Born-Again Christian helped my resisting the devil; it was not until I had received a confidence from Heaven that I was obeying **His Call on my life**, that I knew the Devil was defeated – he was *dead meat to my resisting him including slashing at him with the Sword of the Spirit...sooner or later.*

**How do I do that, Pastor Bruce?** Well there is a helpful list that Apostle Peter gave in regards to our **calling**. The list is in (2 Peter 1.2-11/ BRG). I suggest this list be in your prayer focus for Victory. I will leave details of that passage (verses .2-.4) to your own Bible Studies: (v.5) *giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; 6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; 7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. 8 For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. 10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: 11 For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.* {I call v.11 a Glorious Entrance into Heaven}

Yes, this section of the Bible can be at least one sermon by itself. But, I wanted to share this LIST with you all in the context of **(Romans 8, in particular 8.31)** *If God is for us, who is against us?* **AND** as well as my personal experience with these verses from the Bible. Dear OIC Saints, please don't wait for my sermons on (James & 2 Peter). Pray over this list from these two verses as I did about 20 years ago. I don't dare call my efforts diligent, but I earnestly asked Jesus these two questions from **(James 4.7 & 2 Peter 1): Am I submitted to You? And Help Me LORD to give diligence to make “my” calling and election sure!** I would not be standing here in Japan today with the wonderful **calling** of proclaiming Jesus' Glorious Gospel if I did not pray this to God about 20 years ago. By the Holy Spirit, God made my election and calling sure enough to lay everything

aside to serve in Japan. Yes, and also knowing, as Jesus told me, that I would be confronting the devil in “hand-to-hand Combat” for the souls of the people in Japan.

## TAKEAWAY #2

**Knowing what God has called you as you walk to Glory gives you confidence to have Victory over Satan and other “foes” that we all must face. Simply bring yourself and (James 4.7 & 2 Peter 1) to God in prayer, asking: Am I submitted to You? And Help Me LORD to give diligence to make “my” calling and election sure!**

3) *sufferings* – We saw in **(Romans 8.18)** *For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.* The Apostle Paul was familiar with severe sufferings at the hands of Romans and Jews. He distinctly refers to his knowledge and experiences in Holy Spirit revelations, as we just read of in **(Romans 8.29-30)**. We must never decide on the time limit for our sufferings! Mature Christians develop an attitude of *perseverance*. Controlling the temperature of *the furnace of affliction* is God's job, not ours. If any suffering is not to lessen until Glory when we see Jesus, Paul is convinced that there is no comparison of severe sufferings with the Glory that is *to be revealed in us in (Romans 8.18)* Paul had earlier (in the year 55AD) said something very similar to the Corinthians in **(2 Cor 4.17)** *For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison.* We can recall just a few of the Apostle Paul's list of credentials in being a *suffering servant of Christ*: 39 lashes with the whip, imprisonments, stoning, and 1 ½ days in the sea after a shipwreck. If Paul had the OIC Worship Team there in 57AD he would be singing with us all *It Will Be Worth It All When We See Jesus*. Paul was not a masochist, nor did he believe in a life of total self-abasement as a Zen Buddhist might believe. Paul knew that God allowed suffering for the “cause of Christ” in the world, but also to draw him closer to Jesus. Then Paul would be closer to experiencing the same deep joy Jesus had when He gave Himself into the hands of evil men in love for His Sheep. The Apostle Peter showed the difference in suffering when we sin when compared to when we serve God. In **(1 Peter 2:19-21/CEV)** *God will bless you, even if others treat you unfairly for being loyal to him. 20 You don't gain anything by being punished for some wrong you have done. But God will bless you, if you have to suffer for doing something good. 21 After all, God chose you to suffer as you follow in the footsteps of Christ, who set an example by suffering for you.*

4) *has called you into his eternal glory in Christ*. Peter is pointing to the “Not Yet” of Glory in Heaven. But he also makes temporal deliverance from sufferings a promise in **(1 Peter**

5.10), *And the God of all grace, the one who **has called you into his eternal glory in Christ**, will, after you have **suffered** a little while, himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. {that is: cause you to be secure and strong}*. Christians in intense warfare can expect seasons of victories after great attacks: either physical or spiritual. Peter wrote these letters to many churches in a large area of the world that had been evangelized as we see in (1 Peter 1.1) *Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are chosen.* The occasion for this Letter was the gathering “persecution” storm that was coming their way from Rome. Peter and the other Apostles traveled through much of the world and likely heard inside information. Of course, the Lord Jesus does give many supernatural messages, or prophecies, of such news before it transpires to all Christians so gifted by the Spirit as these Apostles were. Regardless, Peter wanted them ready for the coming persecution. Peter also had learned that the vicious persecutions were from a whimsical Caesar in Rome. So Peter was not giving a false hope when he wrote that God *“will, after you have **suffered** a little while, himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.”*

Therefore, let’s answer Paul’s question in Romans 8.31 *who can be against us?* The Devil and his messengers, that’s who. The Expositor’s Bible Commentary (EBC) made a correct observation regarding Peter’s warning Christians in light of his own Experiential Christianity, if you please. Peter had claimed he never knew Jesus during His trial! He learned a hard lesson. To paraphrase the (EBC) comment: “Peter warned Christians to stay alert regarding Satan’s unexpected attacks, in particular during threats of physical persecution. Peter’s fear of death in the hands of the authorities who arrested Jesus motivated his denial of his Lord.” We might recall that on the night Jesus was betrayed, at the Passover Meal, Jesus had warned Peter of an attack by Satan coming his way. In (Luke 22.31-34) we read: **31** *“Simon, Simon, {Peter’s other name} behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat; 32 but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.” 33 But he said to Him, “Lord, with You I am ready to go both to prison and to death!” 34 And He said, “I say to you, Peter, the rooster will not crow today until you have denied three times that you know Me.”*

Jesus had actually warned Peter that a Satanic attack was coming his way.

Peter now warns the churches, like Jesus had warned him, that a persecution is coming from Rome. As (EBC) pointed out: Peter knew that Satan tries to use the fear of bodily sufferings that ruthless Roman soldiers would inflict to cause doubt and tempt the church to deny the Lord Jesus even as Peter himself had. Peter wanted the Christians to be prepared for the worst, and to

keep the Faith. And in (Luke 22.45-46) Jesus, just before His arrest, again He warns His disciples: *When He rose from prayer, He came to the disciples and found them sleeping from sorrow, 46 and said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray **that you may not enter into temptation.**"* Although the Bible tells us that Peter did deny the Lord three times, the most wonderful thing in Peter's sin experience was when Jesus said to him (Luke 22.32) ***but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.*** God answered His Son's prayer for the stumbling Apostle. Now, he feeds Jesus' sheep and **strengthens his brothers, with the compassion of Christ from his own** past experiences.

Dear OIC Saints! Take comfort, for Jesus is praying for us as well. But Peter's story is in the Bible for us to be prepared to endure and persevere rather than go through the terrible agony of backsliding into fear and doubt, as Peter had experienced.

### **TAKEAWAY #3**

**These Bible highlights from (1Peter 5.8-11/ Mounce) of 1) *be sober-minded, 2) resist him, 3) sufferings, 4) called you into His eternal glory in Christ* are verses from the Apostles Peter, Paul and James. These dovetail or fit into the next verse in Romans, (Romans 8.31/ AMPC). *What then shall we say to [all] this? If God is for us, who [can be] against us? [Who can be our foe, if God is on our side?]***

In this 8<sup>th</sup> Chapter of Romans we are told that the Holy Spirit is praying for us on the "inside" even with deep groanings that our minds cannot articulate in a prayer to our Loving Father in Heaven (8.26) He is not only power for our safe passage through life, He has wisdom and knowledge that we don't have. We also saw how Jesus is also praying for us in Heaven, at the right hand of our Heavenly Father.

But before we exegete (v.32) with its glorious confidence for all who believe in Jesus, let us not forget that Peter was warning Christians who had the Holy Spirit. You might say: "Pastor Bruce, we have no vicious Roman soldiers that persecute us here in Japan!" That is correct. But I recall in the 1970's the testimonies of Christians from the Soviet Union behind the then *Iron Curtain*. During their visit to my church in America they shared of Bible Smugglers risking prison or death to sneak Bibles across the borders into Russia. Miracles by God had border guards act stupid and not look under the blankets that lay over stacks of Bibles. But what I was most impressed by these Servants of our Lord Jesus was their concern for us Americans. I will attempt a quote from many decades ago: "We pray for you. You have no physical persecution and you are a wealthy country.

We fear you might follow Satan's trick with the deceits of wealth and worries for material comfort!” Japan may be struggling financially, but the demonic persecutions anywhere on planet Earth with no physical persecution can put Christians to sleep, like Peter in the Garden of Gethsemane.

**In (Romans 8.34) we find that:** *Who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.* Jesus is interceding for us at the right hand of God in Heaven, even as He did while on Earth for Peter **in (Luke 22.32).**

**(Romans 8.35)** *Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?* It is a good thing that the Holy Spirit, or the Comforter (KJV) has come. New Christians after sensing God's love, a small or large taste of Glory, often think that God will protect them from all the hardships and human suffering in the *Fallen Race of Men.* We already brought out the Apostles Paul and Peter giving a definite and clear statement in Holy Scripture that says, not so! **In (Romans 8.36) 36** *Just as it is written, {in Psalm 44.22} “FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG; WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED.”* This psalm or song by the “Sons of Korah” included the ups and downs of God's displaying His power to deliver His people. For in (v. 5b) *through your Name we will trample down those who rise up against us;* and apparent lack of it (v.15-16a) *All day long my dishonor is before me, And my humiliation has overwhelmed me. Because of the voice of him who reproaches and reviles.* The Apostle Paul was of the same attitude as the Sons of Korah for in (Psalm 44.17) *All this has come upon us, but we have not forgotten You, And we have not dealt falsely with Your Covenant.* Whether *the voice of him who reproaches and reviles,* in (Psalm 44.16a) is human or demonic, the point that Paul is making is that when there is persecution of Christians that God has allowed severe and very personal difficulties. They must be determined to *not dealt falsely with your {God's} New Covenant* (Psalm 44.17b), their Justification by Faith. Jesus is interceding in Heaven and the Holy Spirit or the *Comforter* comforts and empowers those Christians to keep believing “*God is for us.*” **(Romans 8.31)**

Now Paul encourages the Christians in Rome that God's love will do more than just get them through severe tribulations and hardships. For in **(Romans 8.37)** *But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.* Paul now expresses what **he had become convinced of** or learned from his Experiential Christianity, walking in the Spirit towards eternal Glory.



The closing verses of Romans Chapter 8 are a long discourse with details, and apparently emotionally charged for intent, as it deals with the great challenges or questions of LIFE by men everywhere, but in particular, by his educated readers in Rome. What are some of their concerns that fit into *in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer?* Paul answers this in ....

**(Romans 8.38-39)** *For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

**DEATH** - The obvious universal fear for Mankind is Death. This the first and simplest “foe” to count as overwhelmingly conquered. Ever since the Angel said to Mary Magdalene and the other Mary, on that First Easter Morning: In (Matthew 28.5-7) *Do not be afraid; for I know that you are looking for Jesus who has been crucified. 6 He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said. Come, see the place where He was lying. 7 Go quickly and tell His disciples that He has risen from the dead;*

**LIFE** - Paul casts aside “Life” as a formidable “foe.” For God has promised in **(Romans 8.28)** *And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.* Christians belong to Jesus and what men call “life” is so much a maze or spider webs of Satan and sinful men. Jesus is the only TRUE **LIFE**. He said of Himself in His WORD: (John 14.6) *Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.*

**NOR ANGELS, NOR PRINCIPALITIES** - What about those powerful agents for Satan? He has power on Earth, you might say. As we saw above, that is a true and correct statement. Now Paul applies the Sword of the Spirit to slice the old Dragon's head to almost fall off as he wrote (Romans 8.38-39) with the intention and under the power of the Holy Spirit. The occult groups in Rome at that time worshiped or subjected themselves *under* an organization of angels, and principalities. The principalities or princes (**arche**/Greek) are spiritual beings with great authority in the kingdom of Satan. *Arche*, as in (Ephesians 6.12) *For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers (arche), against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.* If men worship angels, “good” or “bad” in their minds, they are appeasing and in fellowship with “fallen or bad angels.” As *Jesus answered him {Satan}, “It is written, For you shall worship the Lord your God and serve Him only.”* in (Luke 4.8). God's “good” and holy angels bring messages to Christians from God – in fact, the Greek word for angels (*angelos*) really means messengers. Many times, they intervene in events without men realizing it. The “bad” angels, however, bring messages from Satan, their boss

and lord. The Lord Jesus said as Luke recorded the event in (Luke 10.17-19) *The seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name."* **18** *And He said to them, "I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning.* **19** *Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing will injure you.* Note that this authority, in the name of Jesus, was not just to the Twelve Apostles, but **Seventy** disciples of Jesus. **As we draw closer to the Anti-Christ or Beast to be released with almost total authority on Earth, there is no logical reason, to think Christians cannot have this same authority.** The Apostle Paul instructed the church at Ephesus to be proactive regarding these spiritual "foes" in (Ephesians 6.10) **10** *Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might.* **11** *Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.* A sum of God's Armor (Ephesians 6.14-17) TRUTH, GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS, PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL, SHIELD OF FAITH, AND SWORD OF THE SPIRIT – THE WORD OF GOD. I strongly instruct and encourage my OIC Brothers and Sisters in Christ to open their Bibles to Ephesians 6 and regularly pray on this armor in detail. I also want to point out that this Armor of God is not only to *be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.* It is for us to intercede against the Devil and his messengers for those who are not able to resist the Devil for themselves. Remember, Peter stumbled and denied the Lord three times as he was thinking only of his own well-being. We have authority to set Satan's captives free from Satan to "hear the Gospel of Jesus." We are already born-again and safe in Christ.

Now, in Rome, the Christians who had worshiped, or at the least had paid respect to, these fallen angel-demons at pagan shrines and temples needed the decisive Word of God that they were now "*more than conquerors*" over these spirit beings. The SPIRIT of Jesus inspired Paul through the WORD to set free the minds of any Christians with this Satanic background. They needed to *know that they know*, that *Justification by Christ's Sacrifice* set them free, no longer under these *angels' and principalities' power!* These Christians had felt the real power and presence of Satan, a false counterfeit "non-glory" we should say. Now, as they no longer honored these fallen angels, demons, or Satan, he would try to make them fear his evil threats of retribution for leaving him to follow Jesus. **(Romans 8.38)** was worded precisely in the format that these occult groups were familiar with seeing. This Bible Verse, the Word, and the power of the Spirit set them free. I know it can, for in 1973 this verse had a great impact on me. I was such a recently born-again Christian, having been a sorcerer so heavily involved in astrology, but I was fleeing to Jesus for rest from Satan's threats. I still remember the first time I read **(Romans 8.38-39)** and the Bible footnote about the occult worshipers in Rome, I rejoiced in the Lord with exceeding joy. Jesus loves *even me!*

***NOR THINGS PRESENT NOR THINGS TO COME*** – God, as the Bible shows us, is **above Time**. Knowing that is TRUE, a FACT, makes any things of the present or future, **powerless** to separate us from God's love. We have been Justified by Faith in Jesus, God's solution to our sin problem. In God's position, above time, we are: foreknown, predestined, called, justified and glorified (some “already” and, even the best, “not yet”). That is the Love of God.

***NOR ANY OTHER CREATED THING*** – (Colossians 1.16/CEV) *Everything was created by him, everything in heaven and on earth, everything seen and unseen, including all forces and powers, and all rulers and authorities. All things were created by God's Son, and everything was made for him.* Since “any other created thing” was not only created by Jesus, but for Jesus, *created things* are another “foe” that cannot separate us from the Love of God. However, we must take note, we have many, many things that we need and may feel we *love*. Loving ice cream and chocolate as gifts from God is wonderful. But many “Tools for our Trade,” or job, may become idols. A carpenter needs and has favorite hammers, saws, types of wood that he “feels” he loves. A pastor has his favorite Bible, Theology Books, computer that he “loves” as well. All these things are “tools” to use to serve our King Jesus. God sets us free to enjoy all the tools he provides us. Materialism can still make idols out of what God intended as tools. If we keep our focus on being Servants of the King, all should be well.

#### **TAKEAWAY#1**

**God has revealed measures of His Glory to Christians this side of Heaven as written in (1 Corinthians 2.9-10) but just as it is written, “THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD, AND WHICH HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN, ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM.” 10 For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. I am convinced that the more a Christian has tasted the Glory ahead, the better he can fight the good fight here on Earth.**

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### TAKEAWAY#3

**These Bible highlights from (1Peter 5.8-11/ Mounce) of 1) *be sober-minded*, 2) *resist him*, 3) *sufferings*, 4) *called you into His eternal glory in Christ* are verses from the Apostles Peter, Paul and James. These dovetail or fit into the next verse in Romans, (Romans 8.31/ AMPC). *What then shall we say to [all] this? If God is for us, who [can be] against us? [Who can be our foe, if God is on our side?]*)**

*The Love of God, from which nothing can separate us*, was shown in Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross, in time, about 2,000 years ago. God's almighty power and gift of forgiveness is the same now, as to anyone who actually stood at the foot of Jesus' Crucifixion. Justification is a theological term that is filled with the Love and Knowledge of this God who gave us His Son, Jesus. We are now equipped to walk to Glory...children of God becoming Sons of God. We have the armor of God to stand firm ourselves, and tear down Satan's blinding, terrorizing presence in the lives of others who cannot pray for themselves. OIC, Let us Go in the power of Jesus' Might to set Japan free! To share Jesus's Gospel ... the wonderful Words of Life!

***Let Us Pray,***

### REFERENCES

{ } - Pastor Bruce's added notes for clarity

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