

WORSHIP GUIDE: WEDNESDAY, 29 JULY 2020

WELCOME

Sis Necy

BIBLE VERSES

Psalms 95:1-3

*“Come, let us praise the Lord! Let us sing for joy to God, who protects us!
Let us come before Him with thanksgiving and sing joyful songs of praise.
For the Lord is a mighty God, a mighty King over all the gods!*

PRAISE SONGS

“I Will Enter The Gates”

*I will enter His gates with thanksgiving in my heart,
I will enter His courts with praise,
I will say this is the day that the Lord has made,
I will rejoice for He has made me glad.*

*He has made me glad } x2
I will rejoice for He has made me glad.
He has made me glad } x2
I will rejoice for He has made me glad.*

“As We Gather/The Steadfast Love”

*As we gather may Your spirit work within us
As we gather may we glorify Your name
Knowing well that as our hearts begin to worship
We’ll be blessed because you came
We’ll be blessed because you came*

*The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases
His mercies never come to an end
They are new every morning, new every morning
Great is thy faithfulness O Lord
Great is thy faithfulness O Lord*

OPENING PRAYER

Elder Aida

OPENING HYMN

“ The Love of God”

HFJ#48

*The love of God is greater far Than tongue or pen can ever tell;
It goes beyond the highest star, And reaches to the lowest hell;
The guilty ones, bowed down with care, God gave the Son to win;
God’s erring child now reconciled, And pardoned from all sin.*

Refrain: *O love of God, how rich and pure! How measureless and strong!
It shall forevermore endure The saints’ and angels’ song.*

*When trying times shall pass away, And earthly thrones and powers fall,
When they who heard refuse to pray, On rocks and hills and mountains call,
God’s love so sure, shall still endure, All measureless and strong;
Redeeming grace to human race, The saints’ and angels’ song. **(Refrain)**
Could we with ink the ocean fill, And were the skies of parchment made,
Were every stalk on earth a quill, And every one a scribe by trade,
To write the love of God above, Would drain the ocean dry.
Nor could the scroll contain the whole, Tho’ stretched from sky to sky. **(Refrain)***

GREETINGS/CHURCH CONCERNS

Pastor Cesar

THANKSGIVING/TESTIMONY

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND HEALING

Pastor Glo

SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 8:31-39

Bro. Mitch

31 In view of all this, what can we say? If God is for us, who can be against us? **32** Certainly not God, who did not even keep back his own Son, but offered him for us all! He gave us his Son - will he not also freely give us all things? **33** Who will accuse God’s chosen people? God himself declares them not guilty! **34** Who, then, will condemn them? Not Christ Jesus, who died, or rather, who was raised to life and is at the right side of God, pleading with him for us! **35** Who, then, can separate us from the love of Christ? Can trouble do it, or hardship or persecution or hunger or poverty or danger or death? **36** As the scripture says, “For your sake we are in danger of death at all times; we are treated like sheep that are going to be slaughtered.” **37** No, in all these things we have complete victory through him who loved us! **38** For I am certain that nothing can separate us from his love: neither death nor life, neither angels nor other heavenly rulers or powers, neither the present nor the future, **39** neither the world above nor the world below - there is nothing in all creation that will ever be able to separate us from the love of God which is ours through Christ Jesus our Lord.

MEDITATION

“More Than Conquerors”

Elder Emer Cometa

RESPONSE (Sung)

“For God So Loved The World”

*For God so loved the world. He gave His only Son.
To die on Cal’vry’s tree, From sin to set me free.
Someday He’s coming back What gloy that will be.
Wonderful His love to me.*

COMMUNITY AT PRAYER

Pastor Bob

CLOSING SONG

“The Power of His Love”

*Lord I come to You Let my heart be changed, renewed
Flowing from the grace That I’ve found in You
Lord I’ve come to know The weaknesses I see in me
Will be stripped away By the power of Your love*

Chorus: *Hold me close Let Your love surround me
Bring me near Draw me to Your side
And as I wait I’ll rise up like the eagle
And I will soar with You Your Spirit leads me on
By the power of Your love.*

*Lord unveil my eyes Let me see You face to face
The knowledge of Your love As You live in me
Lord renew my mind As Your will unfolds in my life
In living every day By the power of Your love **(Chorus)***

MEMORY VERSE

Pastor Glo

Lamentations 3:22-23

*“The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, His mercy never come to an end.
They are new every morning, great is Thy faithfulness O God.”*

CLOSING PRAYER AND BENEDICTION

Pastor Caloy

RESPONSE

Three-fold Amen



**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST IN THE PHILIPPINES
ELLINWOOD-MALATE CHURCH**



MidWeek Prayer Meeting

29 July 2020

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MORE THAN CONQUERORS

Romans 8:31-39

July 29, 2020

By: Emer Cometa

Magandang gabi mga kapatid. Kumusta po kayo? Nawa'y kayo ay nasa mabuting kalagayan sa biyaya ng ating Dios.

Our meditation for tonight is a follow up of our last Sunday's message which focused on being a child of God and the privileges of being His sons and daughters. Being a child of God means We Are More Than Conquerors which is found in verses 31 to 39 of Romans chapter 8.

We live in anxious and fearful times. The threat of covid-19 has put fear into overdrive. We have now close to 16.5 million covid cases all over the world (with over 10 million recoveries but more than 600k deaths) and while here in the Philippine we already have more than 80 thousand cases with over 26 thousand recoveries or 32%.

There are so many unknowns with this virus. How long is this threat going to last? When will the covid 19 vaccine be available? What will be the long-term economic impact? Maybe it's still Okay for some of us, who have work and receiving regular paychecks. But what about the financial plight of those with lesser incomes, whose jobs will be the first to go, who were retrenched, who closed their shops and businesses? Before the lockdown most of us were in control of every situation. But It is official now. We are not in control.

Here is the challenge as we see it. We can underestimate the danger and thereby put ourselves and our family at risk. Or we can overestimate the threat and become captive to fear. Fears about this virus are spreading faster than the virus itself.

What does our faith say to us at a time like this?

We find ourselves in the eighth chapter of Paul's letter to the Romans. We have reached the midpoint of this New Testament letter. As I ponder this passage and consider this moment, the whole thing seems like a set up. This eighth chapter could not be more relevant to our personal circumstances. It is as though Paul wrote this chapter for this very moment.

More Than Conquerors... page 1

Paul asks seven questions in our lesson. The questions are rhetorical in nature, meaning the answers are implied in the questions. The answers are self-evident.

The *first* question is, "What shall we say in response to these things" (Romans 8:31)? Paul's reference to "these things" reminds us back to the abundance of promises Paul cites earlier in the chapter. Let me bring you back to three of God's promises. God the Father loves us; He does not condemn us. God the Son saves us from sin and death. God the Holy Spirit gives us everything we need for life as God intended it.

His *second* question is, "If God is for us, who can be against us" (Romans 8:31)? Some people are convinced God is against them. The bad things that happen to them are proof that God doesn't really like them. Paul's response is, "If God is for us, who can be against us?" Paul answers the question of whether God is with us with a *third* question in verse 32, "He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things" (Romans 8:32)? God gives Jesus as evidence that God is for us, not against us. Paul's words, "graciously gives us" brings us back to the theme of Romans. We are saved by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone.

Paul's *fourth* question presumes a courtroom scene. Paul asks, "Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen" (Romans 8:33)? God acts as our defense attorney. "It is God who justifies" (Romans 8:33). God is the one who acquits us.

Paul's *fifth* question continues in the same manner of a courtroom setting, "Who then is in a position to condemn" (Romans 8:34)? He answers definitively, "No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God interceding for us." Christ is our defender. Our accusers have been reduced to silence. "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?" (Romans 8:35) frames Paul's *sixth* question. He answers with his *seventh* and last question, "Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?" Paul then quotes from Psalm 44, "For your sake we face death all day long; we are counted as sheep to be slaughtered" (Romans 8:36). It's Paul's way of reminding us that trials are nothing new in the history of God's people. We come now to a final soaring paragraph.

More Than Conquerors... page 2

“No! In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us” (Romans 8:37). Circle this phrase “more than conquerors.” It’s the only place where this phrase appears in Scripture. The phrase is actually a compound Greek term—the root word nikao or Nike, meaning victor, added to the prefix huper, meaning “more,” to add emphasis. We are not only ordinary victors; we are super victors. We are super conquerors through him who loves us.

Paul’s concluding sentence is sweeping in scope. “For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in creation will be able to separate us from Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:38-39). “For I am convinced” means to come to a settled conclusion about something. The first word on the list, death, is hardly surprising, since death is treated as our mortal enemy in Romans. The presence of life on this list may surprise you.

How can life separate us from God’s love? I suspect Paul means that not even life’s trials or disappointments can separate us from God’s love. The next pair of threats, “neither angels nor demons” refers to the whole of celestial beings. The next duo, “neither the present nor the future” have to do with time. Keep these words in mind whenever you become panicky about the future or what will happen to us. “Nor any powers” has to do with a broad range of worldly and spiritual powers that threaten us. “Neither height nor depth” referring to anything in heaven above or earth below. The final phrase, “nor anything in all creation,” is a catch-all term, as though Paul is saying to his readers, “Did I miss anything?” We can count 17 possible threats Paul lists that cannot separate us from God’s love.

If Paul was writing this letter to us today, I imagine him saying to us, “Neither fear nor panic, neither worry nor anxiety, neither world markets nor stock fluctuations, neither epidemic nor pandemic, not even the covid-19 itself, can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” No virus or pandemic can rob us of the victory Jesus gives to all who believe in him. So what difference does this message of being more than conquerors make in our lives? Let us practice Trust. I can think of two Biblical phrases to say to yourself whenever you become fearful about the future. “If God is for us, who can be against us?” And, “We are more than conquerors through him who loves us.” Brothers and sisters

in Christ, let us continue to develop an active prayer life, read the Bible and meditate on it, and cultivate connections with our fellow believers. Why not read and meditate on God’s Word instead of browsing the net and looking for messages that can be false or fake that will lead us to be more anxious about the situation. Let us spend more time in prayer each day communing with our loving God.

Indeed, we all miss going to church every Sunday and to attend to other activities as well. But how can we become the church during a time when we are not in the sanctuary? We know very well that the church is not the building or structure; the church is God’s people at work and prayer. How can we be a church without walls in this moment in time? Acts 2 tells us that the early church gathered daily for worship and to offer mutual encouragement. Let’s continue to worship together through the different online worship services of EMC every Sunday, the midweek prayer meeting, bible studies, RAD worship. These times may be different to us, but they are not new to the history of God’s people. We need to stay connected with each other in such moments but with sensitivity and understanding coz I noticed that there are those who are not comfortable with communicating via Group Chat or GC, PM or private message them instead. Let us also respect each other’s preferences and privacy.

For those who can share their resources, you can donate to the various Christian NGOs and organizations. In small ways you can provide something to the frontliners like simple snacks, juices and gospel tracks to remind them that we have a God who cares and loves them. Pray for them.

We don’t want to waste this crisis to minimize the pain and risk associated with this virus. This moment also affords us opportunities to be God’s people in new ways together. What does our faith say to us in a time like this? For I am convinced that neither fear nor panic, neither worry nor anxiety, neither epidemic nor pandemic, nor even the threat of covid-19 itself can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.