

## Let Nothing Separate You from God's Love

## Bible passage from Romans 8:1-2, 34-35, 37-39

1 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,

2 because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.

..

34 Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?

..

37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers,

39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

words. Jot notes that come to life as you contemplate the passage.

Read these verses prayerfully, lingering on words that God brings to your attention. Write these verses word for word or paraphrase them in your own

From the New International Version

## How to Read God's Word Contemplatively as a Group

- We'll start with prayer, then silence. Relax and let go of the busyness and junk of the day.
- We'll read the Bible passage aloud one time. Then we'll be quiet for a while as we individually listen to God's leading and to His Word.
- Write the passage (if you want to).
- We'll read the passage aloud several more times.
- After a little while, we'll begin to talk about what we sense God is showing us in this passage.
- Try to limit your comments to what God is showing you right here, right now. Try to avoid "retweeting" something you heard in another Bible study or sermon in the past.
- We'll start with sharing 1-2 words of insight. Then as we feel led, we'll share a sentence or two.
- Let these questions guide your thoughts:
  - √What does it say about God?
  - √What does it say about mankind?
  - √What does it say about living to please God?
  - √What can you change in your life to obey these words from God?
  - ✓ Does someone you know need to hear about this passage?

## How to Read God's Word Contemplatively On Your Own

Quiet your heart and mind. Simply ask God to block out (and help you to block out) thoughts that don't relate to what He wants to say to you right now. Create your own sense of "holy space."

- Concentrate on the verse by reading it slowly (or listening to it being read). Focus on each word.
- If you want, copy the verse word-for-word. It helps you slow down and appreciate each word.
- Jot down words or concepts that you begin to see, connections that you can make in the verses (circle repeated concepts/words that are important, words that "jump out at you," etc.).
- Read the verse silently in your heart as if you are having a one-on-one conversation with God. Read slowly, lingering over each word.
- Ask God about the verse. "What does this part mean to me, Lord?" "Give me insight." "Fill me with your understanding, Lord."
- Personalize it by saying the verse/praying it back to the Lord. For example, "Lord, I want to rejoice always; help me to pray continually and give thanks in all circumstances...."