

Not Even Death Can Separate Us!

Hebrews 11:32-40

The Apostle Paul gives us a marvelous list of all the things which can never separate us from the love of God which is found in Christ Jesus our Lord (Rom. 8:38-39). First on this list is man's great enemy, death (compare 1 Cor. 15:26). Not even death itself can separate us from God's love. Of course, this promise only applies to believers, to those who are "in Christ Jesus" (Rom. 8:1).

Death involves separation. Spiritual death is separation from God. Physical death is separation of the soul/spirit from the body. John the Baptist and James the brother of John were both beheaded. Their heads were separated from their bodies, but they were not separated from the love of God. Stephen was pelted with stones until he died, but death for him was a welcoming ceremony into the third heaven (Acts 7:55-60). Samson (Heb. 11:32) expired due to the crushing weight of a collapsing Philistine temple, but this did not separate him from the love of the Lord his God. One of God's servants was "sawn asunder" (Heb. 11:37), and the Talmud indicates that King Manasseh killed Isaiah in this manner. If true that Isaiah's body was separated into two parts by his enemy, this prophet, "of whom the world was not worthy" (Heb. 11:38), was never separated from the love of Jehovah. Our Lord told us not to fear those who can merely kill the body, but to fear God who can destroy both body and soul in **hell** (*Gehenna*, Matt. 10:28). The crucifixion of the thief on the cross could never separate him from the love of his Saviour; instead, it united him with his Saviour in Paradise (Luke 23:43).

Bees without stingers are harmless. For the believing heart, death has lost its sting (1 Cor. 15:55-57)! **Do we see death as God does?**

~George Zeller: www.middletonbiblechurch.org



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