

Romans - Commentaries by Paul J. Pascoe

CareLines: Volume 2, Separation: 2 (8:35)

ROM 8:35

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?

Rom. 8:35

The answer to this question is understood in the text. The answer is NOTHING. If you know Jesus as your Savior, then the Bible says that you are "in Christ". Now if you are in Christ and the Lord Jesus is in the center of God's love, then you can REST in the fact that nothing can ever separate you, EVER, from His love.

CareLines: Volume 2, My Will (7:18)

ROM 7:18

For to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.

Rom. 7:18

In case you hadn't figured it out, there's a battle going on inside you - most of the time. Satan wants at least equal time with the Lord. So as a master salesman he presents you with his wares (some very attractive) every day. At the same time the Lord whispers, "No!" and you turn away. But then the devil comes back with a stronger sales pitch . . . and you fall for it. Yes, the old and new natures fight all the time. We constantly need to trust the Lord to help us by the Spirit to resist the enemy and follow our Savior's leading alone.

CareLines: Volume 2, Myself (7:18)

ROM 7:18

For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing.

Rom. 7:18

Before we can climb the spiritual ladder we have to get above the first rung. And the label on the first rung is "No good in my flesh." That is, in my old nature there's nothing that can please God - at all. All we have to offer to God that He can and will accept is what He gave us when we got saved. We always like to think that there is a little bit of good in man. Not so! The Bible is very clear - the old nature is unacceptable. As soon as we learn that, then we can turn completely to Him and allow God to work in and through our new nature.

CareLines: Volume 2, Servant (6:19)

ROM 6:19

Even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.

Rom. 6:19

The Apostle Paul is exhorting the Roman believers that as they had, in their unsaved days, been servants to sin, now as Christians they should yield themselves - their whole being - as servants to righteousness. Yes, as a Christian I should want to give myself to the Lord and live for Him. He gave Himself for me; I should give myself back. The cost? A daily sacrifice of taking up the cross and following Him. It takes self-denial. It takes purpose of heart. And it brings great reward.

CareLines: Volume 2, Baptism (6:3)

ROM 6:3

Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into His death.

Rom. 6:3

Baptism is a change of position. I go into death and come out on resurrection ground. I get a new name - a name that associates me with Jesus. A dear friend of mine was raised a strict Hindu in India. His name was "King of the Cobras". When He received salvation through believing in Jesus and was made a member of God's family, he was baptized and then changed his name. He's now called Jesubakthan. It means "Follower of Jesus". He lost everything that this world had to offer -but he gained eternal wealth and life that can never be lost.

CareLines: Volume 2, Servant to? (6:16)

ROM 6:16

Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey?

Rom. 6:16

The verse goes on to say that we obey one of two things - either sin unto death, or obedience unto righteousness. Bob Dylan had a song on the charts shortly after he was reportedly converted. It said, "You got to serve somebody. It may be the devil, or it may be the Lord, but you got to serve somebody." It reflects the same thought as our verse. The choice is not if we choose to serve one or the other, but that we will serve either one. Who are you servant to?

CareLines: Volume 2, Service (6:22)

ROM 6:22

But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness.

Rom. 6:22

Christian service is toward God. We were once the slaves of death and hell - doing Satan's bidding. But now, in Christ Jesus, we are servants to God. Our fruit is fruit unto holiness. And a Christian enjoying fellowship with God will bear fruit, more fruit, and much fruit - because that's what God expects us to do.

CareLines: Volume 7, Saved (5:9)

Much more then, being now justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.

Romans 5:9

When the wrath of God is poured out on this world, there will be death and destruction and calamity like has never been seen before. Our verse makes a promise that we shall be saved from wrath - not through wrath, but from it. This tells us that Christians will not experience the wrath of God either on earth or in eternity. God punished His Son instead of us. Jesus experienced God's wrath against sin. So the Christian can enjoy justification now and can look forward to being taken to heaven before the tribulation starts.

CareLines: Volume 3, Faith (4:20)

MAY 15

He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God.

Romans 4:20

Abraham's faith was being tested. God told him that his wife would have a son even though Abraham was 100 years old and Sarah 90. Abraham believed. Sarah had a son - and Abraham loved that son, Isaac, very deeply. Faith - absolute faith - is very pleasing to God and He will reward it. Has God called you to a special work for Him? Go out in faith - He will bless you for it.

CareLines: Volume 2, Faith: 1 (4:3)

ROM 4:3

For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.

Rom. 4:3

The faith described in this verse is so beautiful - because it illustrates faith's simplicity. Simple trust, not some complicated formula to try to reach God, is all that is required. Are you willing to consciously place your life and circumstances in the Lord's hands and not try and figure out every detail? One big payback will be receiving the peace which passes all understanding.

CareLines: Volume 7, Goodness (2:4)

The goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance.

Romans 2:4

God has no desire to send man to hell. Hell was created for one purpose - the devil and his angels. God is good. His faithfulness and goodness are shown to us every day. And it's His goodness that brings us to accept Jesus as our Saviour. If it were not for God's gentle guidance, we never would come to the Lord at all. "Oh that men would praise the Lord for His goodness" (Psalm 107:8).

CareLines: Volume 7, Faith (1:17)

The just shall live by faith.

Romans 1:17

We have never actually seen the Lord Jesus. Thomas was a disciple who would not believe that the Lord had risen from the dead until he saw Him. At that time Jesus said, "Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed." That's you and me. We have not seen Him and yet we have believed in Him. We have not yet seen heaven, but we know that there is one. We live by faith in the Son of God, who loved us and gave Himself for us.

CareLines: Volume 3, Experts (16:19)

AUGUST 27

I would have you wise unto that which is good, and simple concerning evil.

Romans 16:19

Often we hear a person described as being an expert in his or her field. Most of us want to be an expert at something, especially if it will bring us some recognition or a high income. But with this verse in mind, let's spend more time this year using our God-given wisdom to become experts at that which is good - the things that bring eternal benefit.

CareLines: Volume 2, Worship: ROM 14:11 (14:11)

ROM 14:11

As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to Me, and every tongue shall confess to God.

Rom. 14:11

It's an absolutely certain fact that every human being ever born will, some day, bow the knee to the Lord Jesus Christ. Some will be forced to bow. Thank God, there are many who will, and do, gladly bow in true adoration and worship because He is their Lord and Savior. What a wonderful thing it is to be able to bow in worship to Jesus today and thank Him for dying on Calvary's cross. The cost of our salvation was the death of the Son of God on the cross.

CareLines: Volume 2, Building up (14:19)

ROM 14:19

Let us therefore follow after . . . things wherewith one may edify another.

Rom. 14:19

Wouldn't it be nice if everyone practiced this? To edify means to build up. How easy it is to knock down. How long it takes to build up. I saw an article once about a skyscraper demolition specialist. By placing explosives in the correct location on the foundation pillars this man could cause a multi-story building, that took months to build, to disintegrate into a heap of rubble in seconds. So it is with us. One sharp word can destroy a friendship that took years to build. Let's edify one another today.

CareLines: Volume 2, Peacemakers (14:19)

ROM 14:19

Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace.

Rom. 14:19

What things make for peace? Any of the characteristics of the Lord Jesus. The world would love to make universal peace right now. That's been their goal as long as I can remember. But they'll never do it. They're missing the one ingredient to make it happen. That's Jesus. Without Him peace is impossible. Following Him will make us peacemakers. But it requires 100% obedience.

CareLines: Volume 2, Honesty (13:13)

ROM 13:13

Let us walk honestly, as in the day . . . not in strife and envying.

Rom. 13:13

The Lord calls for His own to walk honestly. There is a tremendous amount of cheating, dishonesty, fighting, and jealousy in the world. Christians are to be different. You may be the only one in the class at school who didn't take hidden notes into a test but be the only one. It may cost you the top of the class honor but at least you can hold your head up and know that you got your grade honestly - and (much more important) you honored the Lord. The reward for your honesty will be given by the Lord and it'll be worth far more than any degree that you might get here through dishonest means.

CareLines: Volume 2, Love: 2 (13:10)

ROM 13:10

Love worketh no ill to his neighbor: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

Rom. 13:10

We often think that our neighbor is the person who lives next door or just down the street. Jesus taught that our neighbor is anyone we meet - anyone with whom we have contact - anyone who needs our help or to whom we can show kindness. Our neighborhood just got pretty big, didn't it? Love shows no unkindness - it works no ill. As it says in 1 Corinthians 13, "Love seeks not her own." In other words, it is not selfish. Helped your neighbor lately?

CareLines: Volume 3, Service (12:11)

JUNE 20

Serving the Lord.

Romans 12:11

Service is such an important aspect of the Christian life. And we especially encourage you young people to serve the Lord. While you are young, with lots of energy and strength, and few responsibilities, may you be exercised to spend as much time as you can in dedicated service for Him. We only have today to live. We are not promised tomorrow. Use today for Him.

CareLines: Volume 2, Body, The (12:4-5)

ROM 12:4-5

We have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office [function]: so we, being many, are one body in Christ.

Rom. 12:4, 5

When a person accepts the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior they become a member of His body. And each member, as in our natural bodies, has a different position, a different function, a different gift, and a different job to do. Our hands are not really concerned with what our feet do, but if our feet stumble and we start to fall, our hands reach out and try to break the fall. Although they are different and do different jobs, they work together as a perfect team. So in the body of Christ. All members are equally important to Him, and they should work together as a perfect team.

CareLines: Volume 2, Salvation: 4 (10:9)

ROM 10:9

If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

Rom. 10:9

An intellectual young man who was recently saved said that when he accepted the Lord Jesus into his heart it was the first time in his life that he acted from his heart rather than his intellect. He has been successful in this world by using his intellect, but none of his accomplishments could have given him the inner joy that radiated from his face on the day of his conversion. Our Lord is the great heart specialist -He wants it, and He alone can fill it.

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