


Madison Heights Christian Church 
(Disciples of Christ)
149 Main Street
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MADISON HEIGHTS MESSENGER

No. 5

March 11, 2024

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Nothing Will Separate Us

I once gave a sermon and a visiting pastor said "I can tell you like history." I took the time to research the background, and explained the historical setting so that the congregation could follow the lesson that was based on Romans. The Apostle Paul was in a very unique situation. For several years he had been collecting money for the church in Jerusalem. The Christians that were there were very poor because they were ostracized for their faith. Paul's plan was to go to Jerusalem to deliver the funds and from there start a new mission to Rome and then onward to Spain. He wrote this letter as an introduction and to provide Christian doctrine to the Christians in Rome.

The Apostle Paul was a brilliant theologian and brings up a several theological themes. Freedom is a result of our salvation. We are free because Jesus set us free from the law. The Hebrews lived by the old covenant which was based on law observance. Jesus brings us the new covenant which is based on love. What God did through Jesus is something that the law could never do. We are motivated toward obedience when we are guided by love. It is necessary to follow the word. There are numerous biblical lessons about the necessity of acting upon your faith. We don't live by flesh; we live by Spirit of God. There are also several biblical lessons on the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. We are also indebted to God because God saved us from condemnation. We are adopted by God into the family of God as a child of God, and joint heirs with Christ.

Another one of the theological concepts that the Apostle Paul teaches is the assurance that we are blessed. It is confidence in this blessing that gets the individual to change. It is the realization of what God has done for us that sparks the desire for repentance. Many people are complacent and take their faith for granted. However, when you realize what God has actually done for you that is a goose bump moment. It is this spiritual awareness that leads to confession and a vow to change. Unfortunately, too many people confess and promise to live a new life of devotion but never change. When we realize what God has done for us, then we can't help but act upon it and look forward to worshipping and serving God.

Freedom comes to us from Jesus, because God's law was one of condemnation. Christ paid the price for this condemnation. So, we owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to the Lord. It is out of this appreciation that we orient our whole lives to the Lord. After the Apostle Paul establishes this solid theological foundation, he tells people some good news. Nothing will separate you from Christ. You name it; no hardship, distress, persecution, famine, peril, or even the sword. Nothing will separate you from Christ; not death, life, angels, or rulers. Nothing in the present and nothing in the future - there is absolutely no power that can separate you from Christ. Nothing in all of creation can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. This blessed assurance applies to us today. There is no pandemic, no outbreak, no social unrest, nothing in the present, nothing in the future, nothing at all can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Thank you,

George