

bags into my car, the balloon's string slid through my fingers. I stood there watching it float away, and soon it was nothing more than a tiny red dot—finally, just a memory.

Losing that balloon reminded me of the way love sometimes vanishes from lives. Children rebel and distance themselves; spouses or loved ones desert; close friends stop calling.

I'm so thankful that God's love is steady; it can sustain us when love here on earth drifts away. In fact, it's so reliable that Jesus invites us to abide in His love (John 15:9). He wants us to know it's okay to settle in and get comfortable.

We can always remain in God's tender embrace because "neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come" (Rom. 8:38), or anything else, can ever separate us from His love through Christ. Once we trust Christ as Saviour, the guarantee of God's love is ours forever.

Have you watched love disappear from your life? Rest in God's affection—His constant care will keep your heart safely secured. —
Jennifer Benson Schuldt

More secure is no one ever
Than the loved ones of the Saviour
Not yon star on high abiding
Nor the bird in home-nest hiding. —Berg

Our salvation is secure because God's Word is sure.



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Central Mountains Baptist Church

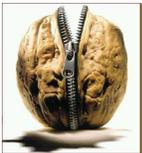
1 JULY, 2012

Abide in My Love.

John 15:9

On a whim, I bought a red foil balloon at the grocery store. The message "I Love You" streamed across the front in billowy script. As I was loading





Romans: Truth in a Nutshell

(unzipped for you)

Security Plus II

In Romans 8:31-39 are two mountain peaks of truth that can lift up any hurting believer to the heights of strength and rest:

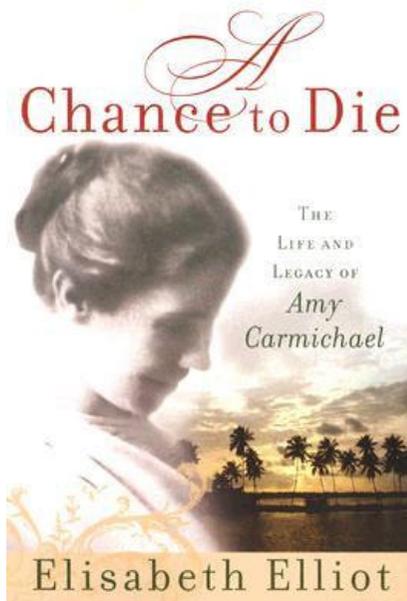
1. Who can oppose the plan of Christ, verses 28-34 (last time)

2. Who can _____ us from the _____ of _____, verse 35-39

Paul gives us two reasons why we can continue to experience Christ's love even in the worst circumstances of life:

◆ He has _____ you through the war, verse 35

(Matthew 13:19-21) "When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside. {20} "But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; {21} "yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles."



◆ He has _____ you by the war, verses 35-39



(Psalms 44:1) "We have heard with our ears, O God, Our fathers have told us, The deeds You did in their days, In days of old:"

(Psalms 44:9) "But You have cast us off and put us to shame, And You do not go out with our armies."

(Psalms 44:18) "Our heart has not turned back, Nor have our steps departed from Your way;"

(Psalms 44:22) "Yet for Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter."



(Psalm 44:22) But it is on your account that we are being killed all the time, that we are treated like sheep to be slaughtered. [paraphrase]

(2 Corinthians 11:23-27) "Are they ministers of Christ?; I speak as a fool; I am more: in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often. {24} From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one. {25} Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; {26} in journeys often, in perils of

waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; {27} in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness;"

(Hebrews 11:36-38) "Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. {37} They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented; {38} of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth."

(2 Timothy 3:12) "Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution."

