

"THREE SOURCES OF FEAR"**Introduction**

The Christian has many fears, e.g. "Am I truly saved?" / "Could I fall away?" / "Does Christ love me?", etc.

- these are not fears of worldly men
- but of godly men, called "my sheep".

APPLICATION: Christians here are reassured.

1. WHO CAN BE AGAINST US? (v. 31)

1) This is the FIRST fear Paul looks at: the Christian's enemies:

FOUR:

- (i) the Christian is in a hostile world
- (ii) he is afflicted with indwelling sin
- (iii) he has the malice of Satan
- (iv) he, like others, faces Death

OBSERVE: Just about all our fears are because of these 4 enemies.

2) But God is "for us": (v. 29-30)

- (i) foreknowledge: love for our persons
- (ii) predestination: appointed for grace
- (iii) calling: the effectual call
- (iv) justification: right with God now
- (v) glorification: to enjoy Him eternally

OBSERVE: These five truths are evidence of the eternity and immensity of God's love for us as believers.

3) We are to know that God will make all enemies to do us good.

2. WHO CAN CONDEMN THE CHRISTIAN? (v. 34)

1) This put in two forms: "Who shall lay...charge?" / "Who...condemeth?"

- 2) This worry and fear explained: that we might somehow sin so greatly that we shall again come under the wrath of God.
- 3) Apparent grounds for this fear:
 - (i) our own distrust of ourselves: "I am so evil, I might do anything".
 - (ii) cases in Scripture (e.g. Judas). This needs to be explained.
 - (iii) warnings in Scripture, e.g. The sin against the Holy Spirit / Hebrews 6 and 10.
APPLICATION: We must never become carnally confident or we shall fall. But the real Christian cannot be lost.
 - (iv) Two reasons for our assurance:
 - The one who justifies us is God.
 - The redeeming works of Christ: - death – resurrection – ascension – intercession.
APPLICATION: The verdict of God is ultimate and cannot be reversed because it is grounded in perfect justice.

3. "WHO SHALL SEPARATE US FROM THE LOVE OF CHRIST?"

- 1) It is a fearful thing for a child to lose its mother – say in a crowded shop.
ILLUSTRATION: a child once in my care.
- 2) So for a believer if he should lose Christ's love or be separated from Christ and His love:
ILLUSTRATION: Peter's tears.
APPLICATION: Have you not felt that fear?
- 3) Paul's answer to this fear is a very full and glorious one: He ransacks heaven and earth to see if any force exists to do so – but he can find NONE.
- 4) What a list! (v. 38-39)
angels – demons – enemies – heavenly – earthly – hellish. All

things possible are brought to mind.

- 5) Paul's resounding conclusion: No creature – nothing in all existence can separate us from the love of God in Christ.

CONCLUSION

This is a safe teaching to rest your soul on for eternity!

