

## Meditation #20: Omnipresent Double-Love

### *What does it say?* –

STUDY: Romans 8:28-39

GOLDEN TEXT: Romans 8:38 and 39 = *I am convinced that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

### *What does it mean?*

The Apostle Paul makes a verbal twist that is easily missed: his phrase *the love of God* means both God's love for us and our love for him. *The love of God* cannot be diminished or derailed by circumstances of any sort—whatever the condition of our lives or creation around us. He will always *love us* with his transforming embrace—and we should be committed to *love him* regardless of what happens to us or around us.

1. How does the Creator love us through Jesus' birth, the point of the first Christmas? How does God love us through his splendid creation? How does he love us also within daily stresses and even natural disasters?
2. How do we love God in every aspect of our lives? In every context of creation? How do we love him in the midst of resource depletion? In polluted environments? How does our love of the Creator show in our compassion for all other humans?
3. Does the Creator love us when he allows the depletion and pollution of the creation? What is he teaching us? How should we look for evidences of the Creator's love today?
4. Is this text realistic? Can we really love God in all circumstances? What gives us the focus, the power, the strength to do so? How do we express that love in his creation?

### *What are we going to do about it?*

5. Reexamine Romans 8:28. Does the promise “all things work together for good” help motivate our deep commitment to love God, regardless of our situation and the conditions in the creation? Is this part of being “called according to his purpose”?
6. How do we love God when environmental stresses increase? What would be an especially difficult environment in which to love God?
7. Can you think of an environmental situation in which you would find it easiest to love God? What can you do to make that circumstance more likely for yourself? For others? What did Jesus do to make your love of God easier? How does Christmas help?

*Truth To Celebrate:* The “love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord”—both his love for us and our love for him—is so strong that nothing can block it anywhere, and all earth is transformed by it.

*Advent-Action:* If you feel cold, add a sweater or blanket, rather than turning up the thermostat. You will also feel the warmth of satisfaction that you are benefitting the future generations among your family and friends—and among people far away. While you are saving money, make an extra donation to a mission or charity that helps other people use resources lovingly and efficiently.

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