

## A Love That Keeps On Giving!

### I. Announce:

- A. **Slide#1** Dollar Days:
- B. **Slide#2 (3-19)** Care Ministry Highlight: Eric Wells Interview.

### II. Intro:

- A. **Slide#20** Story: Steve Winger from Lubbock, Texas, writes about his last college test a final in a **logic class** known for its difficult exams: To help us on our test, the professor told us we could bring as much information to the exam as we could fit on a piece of notebook paper. Most students crammed as many facts as possible on their 8-1/2 x 11 inch sheet of paper. **But one student** walked into class, put a piece of notebook paper on the floor, and had an advanced logic student stand on the paper. The advanced logic student told him everything he needed to know.

He was the only student to receive an "A."

1. The **ultimate final exam** will come when we stand before God and he asks, "Why should I let you in?" - On our own we *cannot* pass that exam.
2. Our creative attempts to **earn** eternal life fall far short. - But we have Someone who will stand in for us! :) *Jesus Christ!*

a) Pray:

- B. **Title:** *A Love That Keeps On Giving!*
- C. **Slide#21 Outline:** Paul's 5 Questions to drive home our *Security in Christ*:  
**What Shall We Then Say? Who Shall Oppose Us? Who Shall Accuse Us? Who Shall Condemn Us? Who Shall Separate Us?**
  1. **Slide#22** Secure sheep; Advantaged sheep; Acquitted sheep; Conquering sheep; Loved sheep!

### III. **Slide#23 WHAT SHALL WE SAY THEN? (31a)**

- A. **To what things?** – Well, to His ability to “*make all things to work together for good*”. To the things listed in vs.30 “*predestined, called, justified, glorified*”. To His **Providence!**
  1. **What shall we say then in response to this awesome redemptive purpose of God?**
    - a) His answer provides the most *strikingly impressive, majestic, passage* on Christian Assurance...in the bible!
  2. **What follows forms the solid foundation for our **confidence!****

- B. **Slide#24** So, what shall we say then? - We are *Secure Sheep!*

### IV. **Slide#25 WHO SHALL OPPOSE US? (31b,32)**

- A. **If God is for us** – “If” means “*since or because*”.
1. It isn't a **question mark**, it is an **exclamation mark!!!**
- B. The **Father** is “for us”(31); The **Jesus** is “for us”(34); The **H.S.** is “for us”(26).
1. **Is the opposite true?** “If God is against you...who can be for you?”
    - a) And, if they are **for** you...what does it matter?
  2. Please think that through **if you don't know** this morning that **God is for you**.
    - a) If He is **against** you...what then? What will become of you? How will you face Him? What will become of you in eternity?
- C. **Slide#26-28 Who can be against us?** –We really don't have anything to **fear** saints!
1. Ps.27:1 **The LORD is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; Of whom shall I be afraid?**
  2. Ps.56:4 **In God I have put my trust; I will not fear.** What can flesh do to me?
- D. (32) **Believer, do you wrongly fear God is against you or angry with you?**
1. He not only **isn't** angry with you, He is **so** “for you”! :) (32a)
  2. He didn't even hold back His own Son for you! - **Did you hear that?**
- E. **Give us all things** - Would God give us the **greater** thing **but** not the **lesser**? - Would He **sacrifice His Son** **but** withhold His **possessions** from us?
1. God is committed to freely lavish on us His **continuing, unfailing generosity!**
- F. **Slide#29 So, who can Oppose us?** – **No one!** – We are **Advantaged Sheep!**

## V. **Slide#30 WHO SHALL ACCUSE US? (33)**

- A. **A charge** = To bring a legal charge against someone.
- B. **Slide#31 Who accuses Christians?** – Excuse me, *who doesn't?*
1. **Satan** surely does – **the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night**, Rev.12:10
  2. **The World** does – **If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you.** Jn.15:18
  3. **We Christians** accuse each other – **if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!** Gal.5:15
  4. **We even accuse ourselves** – Carrying around a sense of guilt & shame.
    - a) But God **doesn't** & **won't** accuse us...in fact...*He has declared us justified!*
      - (1) The judge has spoken! – The gavel has fallen! **“Not Guilty!”**
      - (2) Imagine saying, **“wait judge”, “wait!”**...after the gavel came down...**“Too late”!**
- C. **Slide#32 So, who can Accuse us?** – **No one!** – Because we are **Acquitted Sheep!**

## VI. **Slide#33,34 WHO SHALL CONDEMN US? (34)**

- A. Well, if no one has the authority to **accuse us**, **then** they surely don't have the power to **condemn us**.
- B. **How do you shut down Satan's condemnations?**
1. I remember from a Clint Eastwood movie long ago, a man said, "I'm going to hit you **3 ways: hard, fast, & continuous!**"
  2. We need to hit our "would-be condemners" **4 ways:** [1] Christ died [2] Christ is risen [3] Christ has ascended [4] Christ makes intercession.
  3. Remember, Jesus didn't come to make **bad people good**; He came to bring **dead people back to life!**
    - a) This He had to first do Himself!
- C. Only Jesus has been given the authority to judge humankind!
1. Jn.5:22 **For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son.**
  2. **To the unbeliever** He is **Judge**.
  3. **To the believer** He is **our advocate**, our **defense attorney**.
    - a) He would **never** condemn those, for whom He died!
  4. So, Christian don't be **afraid** of Him, nor try to **avoid** Him.
- D. **It is Christ that died!** – Let **not** your confidence be in anything else!
1. I was dedicated as a baby! – **No! It is Christ that died!**
  2. I was baptized! – **No! It is Christ that died!**
  3. I was confirmed! – **No! It is Christ that died!**
  4. I tithe! – **No! It is Christ that died!**
  5. I was raised in the church! – **No! It is Christ that died!**
  6. I go on missions trips! – **No! It is Christ that died!**
  7. I speak in tongues! – **No! It is Christ that died!**
  8. I go to CM! (hmmm!) - **No! It is Christ that died!**
    - a) Whatever your confidence... "*Put them all away!*"
    - b) Keep to this one declaration! – "It is Christ who died!"
- E. **Slide#35** So, who can Condemn us? **No one! Not even God!** Because we are **Conquering Sheep!**

## VII. **Slide#36 WHO SHALL SEPARATE US? (35-39)**

- A. Notice the progression **bad to worse!** (35)
1. Nothing can drive a **wedge** between God & His people, **no matter** how painful or hard!
  2. **Weird**, we often see things on *this list* as reasons to believe God is displeased w/us. (these aren't love separators!)

- B. But we've seen every type of relationship on earth **separate**/break up!
1. **Marital Separations; Ugly Divorces; Company Splits; even Church splits!**
  2. **We live in a society of:**  
**Dads** separating from their families, to go start new one's.  
**Moms** separating from their families, because they've found someone else.  
**Business partners** separating over different philosophies of business.  
**Friends** separating because of other friends.
    - a) It seems like most relationships we know are *"Italian Dressing relationships"* – You can keep everything together for a time(shake)...give it a little while & sure enough, everything **separates!**
  3. But the relationship Christ offers is a *"Butter on a warm toasted English Muffin relationship"*! - Try as you may, there's no **separating** those two.
  4. **Who** might separate Christians from their Lord?
    - a) The day **the Father stops** loving **His Son**...is the day we have to worry, about Him stopping loving us!
- C. **Slide#37,38** (37) **More than conquerors** = *"keep on being conquerors to a greater degree."* Or, *"keep on winning a glorious victory."*
1. **As I mentioned**...Conquering Sheep!(36) *There's a picture!*
  2. Ps.100:3 **We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.**
- D. **For I am persuaded** - If someone asks *"your persuasion"* – tell them, **"I am persuaded"** quote 38,39.
1. Seriously...**did Paul think he could lose his salvation?**
  2. **Persuaded** = **"I stand convinced."** (RWP)
  3. The items mentioned are those that people dread!
    - a) He picks up where he left off from v.35 w/**death**.
  4. **Paul chooses the extremes of elements in God's universe:**
    - a) The extremes of **existence**: **death & life**.
      - (1) 2 Cor.5:9 **We make it our aim, whether present or absent to be well pleasing unto Him.**
    - b) The extremes of **created spiritual armies**: **angels & supernatural powers** (or demons)
      - (1) **Angels would** not, **demons could** not, undo God's relationship w/His redeemed ones!
    - c) The extremes in **time**: **present & future**
      - (1) **i.e.** nothing **now**...like the list in v.35 & nothing in the **upcoming**.
    - d) The extremes in **space**: **height & depth**
      - (1) Nothing swooping **down**, nothing coming **up!**
    - e) The extremes in **creation**: **any other created thing**.

(1) **Nothing** in the entire created realm can thwart God's purpose for believers in Christ!

E. **Slide#39** So, who can Separate us? – **No one!** – Because we are **Loved Sheep!**

1. **Slide#40,41** Secure sheep; Advantaged sheep; Acquitted sheep; Conquering sheep; & Loved sheep!

F. Let me end w/something penned by **Malcolm Muggeridge** (1903-1990).

Muggeridge was a British journalist who, later in life, became an incredible defender of the Christian faith. Muggeridge's unique journalistic perspective on 20th century **world history** (he lived it and wrote about it) and the **preeminence of Christ** is both true and poetic. He wrote this in the 1970's.

We look back upon history, and what do we see? Empires rising and falling, revolutions and counterrevolutions, wealth accumulated and wealth disbursed. Shakespeare has written of the rise and fall of great ones, that ebb and flow with the moon.

I look back upon **my own fellow countrymen** (Great Britain), once upon a time dominating a quarter of the world, most of them convinced, in the words of what is still a popular song, that '*the God who made them mighty, shall make them mightier yet.*'

I've heard a **crazed, cracked Austrian** (Hitler) announce to the world the establishment of a Reich that would last a thousand years.

I have seen an **Italian clown** (Mussolini) say he was going to stop and restart the calendar with his own ascension to power.

I've heard a **murderous Georgian brigand in the Kremlin** (Stalin), acclaimed by the intellectual elite of the world as being wiser than Solomon, more humane than Marcus Aurelius, more enlightened than Ashoka (*Ashok*).

I have seen **America** wealthier and, in terms of military weaponry, more powerful than the rest of the world put Together - so that had the American people so desired, they could have outdone a Caesar, or an Alexander in the range and scale of their conquests.

All in one lifetime, all in one lifetime, all gone. Gone with the wind.

**England**, now part of a tiny island off the coast of Europe, threatened with dismemberment and even bankruptcy. **Hitler** and **Mussolini** dead, remembered only in infamy. **Stalin** a forbidden name in the regime he helped found and dominate for some three decades. **America** haunted by fears of running out of those precious fluids that keeps their motorways roaring, and the smog settling, with troubled memories of a disastrous campaign in Vietnam, and the victories of the Don Quixotes of the media as they charged the windmills of Watergate.

All in one lifetime, all in one lifetime, all gone. Gone with the wind.

Behind the debris of these solemn supermen, and self-styled imperial diplomatists, there stands the gigantic figure of **One**, *because of whom, by whom, in whom and through whom alone, mankind may still have peace*: **the person of Jesus Christ**. - I present him as **the way, the truth, and the life**.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The gospel Coalition, Tullian Tchividjian. <http://thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/tgc/2009/11/02/the-supremacy-of-christ/>

G. **Prayer:** Lord, help us to remember we are secure sheep, & that You are **for us**. That no charges are **against us**; & we **no longer live** under condemnation. Help us to live as **conquerors!**