

## We Are Never Alone

### Romans 8

*Brothers and Sisters of Immanuel Church,*

Nothing has changed in this past week, except that too many things are changing for the worse. The number of people infected with coronavirus and the number of people needing medical care rose dramatically. It's overwhelming our capacity to give care. We're isolating from one another – as we should – but the cost of that isolation is high. People are out of work. Students are trying to learn at home as teachers are trying to teach them. Government leaders on all levels search for answers that don't come easy. We're running out of options, resources, and supplies. We're trying not to be afraid.

God teaches us such an important lesson now. We never were self-sufficient, and we never will be. More than that, God never *expected* us to be! We are not our own. We belong to Jesus Christ. We are children of the Father. We are the home of the Holy Spirit. God's answer is not that He takes all our troubles away. God's answer to our anxiety is that He gives Himself to us.

Read Romans 8:1-17. Now see in these verses that, by saving us from our sin against God, God gives himself to us. That's real *now* for the Holy Spirit is ours, assuring us that we are children of our Father.

Read Romans 8:18-27. Now see in these verses that in the present age God does not spare us trouble. Instead, God assures us that our present pain – as great as that is! – cannot begin to compare to the glory He gives us in the end. God puts our fear and longing inside the promise of His coming Day.

Read Romans 8:28-39. Now see that nothing has the power to ruin God's promise. Nothing has the power to pry us from God's heart. If *God* is for us, who can be against us? No devil, no disease can rob us from God's fierce love. We belong to Jesus Christ, and Jesus is the promise that we belong to God's heaven, now and eternally.

It's only human to wonder and worry. The questions, the losses, the trouble is real. God never says it's not. What God gives us is a place to go with our worry and pain and tears. God loves us. God takes care of us. God will bring us home. Hold on to the comfort that our Father holds on to us.

The Lord be with us all.

Pastor Bob