

not of its own accord but because of the one who subjected it,  
 in hope that creation itself  
 would be set free from slavery to corruption  
 and share in the glorious freedom of the children of God.  
 We know that all creation is groaning in labor pains even until  
 now;  
 and not only that, but we ourselves,  
 who have the firstfruits of the Spirit,  
 we also groan within ourselves  
 as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

The word of the Lord.

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What will separate us from the love of Christ?

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

8:31b-35, 37-39

**B**rothers and sisters:

If God is for us, who can be against us?

He did not spare his own Son

but handed him over for us all,

will he not also give us everything else along with him?

Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones?

It is God who acquits us.

Who will condemn?

It is Christ Jesus who died, rather, was raised,

who also is at the right hand of God,

who indeed intercedes for us.

What will separate us from the love of Christ?

Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine,

or nakedness, or peril, or the sword?

No, in all these things, we conquer overwhelmingly  
 through him who loved us.

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life,

nor angels, nor principalities,

nor present things, nor future things,

nor powers, nor height, nor depth,

nor any other creature will be able to separate us

from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The word of the Lord.