

## Hope in Uncertain Times by Nigel Coles Part 6: Hope is more than a conqueror

Romans 8:31-39.

<sup>31</sup> What, then, shall we say in response to these things?

That's the question the Apostle Paul, asks in his letter to the Romans, chapter 8:31.

And that's the question we're all asking.

Of course, for us, 'these things' during this our season, means the impact of Covid-19: the fact it's not considered safe to gather together physically in groups; the lack of a vaccine for the coronavirus; the disorientation caused by a lack of finances; the dissipation of normal routines for many many people and so on.

For the Apostle Paul who asks this question, it was a different list, but his list and our list have an underlying, much deeper question: underneath the anxiety, the frustration, the disruption:

'can anything, which happens, separate you and I from the love of God found in Jesus Christ?'

... If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all – how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? <sup>33</sup> Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup> Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died – more than that, who was raised to life – is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. <sup>35</sup> Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?

<sup>37</sup> No, in all these things we are **more than conquerors** through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup> For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons,<sup>[k]</sup> neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, <sup>39</sup> neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

We're responding to a virus which Paul might describe as 'trouble' or 'hardship', although he pops in a few others such as 'persecution, famine, nakedness, danger and sword'.

A 'my challenge is worse than yours' game, is an unhelpful response.

Paul is flagging up the worst things that can happen, which sounds akin to the modelling from our health experts:

We heard if you do nothing, we could see around 600,000 deaths; if you respond like this 250,000, if we take immediate strong, clear action we hope to keep it around 20,000.

For every single family behind every one of whatever the total is, it is their worst case.

Then Paul places a counterweight alongside whatever.

<sup>37</sup> in ***all these things*** we are ***more than conquerors*** through him who loved us.

My ultimate Hope is in Jesus Christ alone.

What that means is, whatever you bring this morning as your own challenge, whether that be from Paul's list or your own: YOU are more than a conqueror.

What does this mean for you today?

If you know the song, 'Cornerstone', you'll know the line:

*My hope is built on nothing less  
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness*

But whilst it may mean you feel you're only surviving today, the future hope of the fulness of the kingdom of heaven is what underlines our Queen's message of confidence when she says 'we will meet again'.

Hope is more than a conqueror.

Next week in our series Hope in Uncertain Times, I shall start to change tack a little. But before we move forwards and start to look ahead, can I ask you to check out where you've been placing your ultimate hope?

If it's not rooted in the person of Jesus Christ, then please pay attention to that now.

Our times will remain uncertain for a good while yet, well beyond the lifting of restrictions, so a bit like when packing for a long journey, make sure you've got on board the one thing necessary whatever the outcome.

That is the Ultimate Hope we all need.

To watch the video, go to: <https://www.thefuelcast.com/>

「 T H E 」  
F U E L  
「 C A S T 」