

## **GOD LOVES YOU**

*"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 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."*

*Rom.8:38,39.*

### **REFLECTION**

Problems in life can sometimes test our faith in God. This COVID pandemic is one example where both Christians and non-Christians have met with all kinds of problems. Though some have been spared, others are visited with problems one after another and the end doesn't seem to be in sight. In such times, Christians may ask "Why?" and be led to wonder if God has forsaken them. Some may even doubt their identity as a children of God. On receiving a barrage of problems, one can also interpret that as having made a grievous sin and God doesn't love him/her anymore. But that is not necessarily true.

In the Bible, Job was one who encountered a series of crises in life to the point of despair. He questioned, he agonized in pain, and he suffered mentally, emotionally, physically and socially. It was not because Job had sin greatly or that God didn't love him anymore. Job asked "Why?" God didn't give him a direct answer. But at the end of the story, Job was restored to an even greater level than before. He came away more aware of God's sovereignty and love for him.

In times of crises we can either be shaken in our faith in God or stand firm in God's nature and promises, knowing that He doesn't change like shifting shadows. Paul was one who encountered problems one after another, yet he was confident of God's steadfast love for him and all of us regardless the circumstances. Problems come, problems go. But God remains the same forever – always loving towards His people. Yes, it is not easy when faced with crises. But we also have God's assurance of His unchanging love to sustain us as we hang on in there. Don't give up.

### **PRAYER**

*Heavenly Father, Thank You for Your everlasting love that is always enduring. Help us to take hold of Your nature and promises dearly to our hearts and minds especially in times of crises, that we live our lives in the confidence of Your goodness, purpose and will. In Jesus' name we ask, Amen.*

### **SUPPLICATION**

- Take the time to reflect on this sentence, "God's love is everlasting; nothing can separate me from His love." You

may want repeat it softly while allowing this understanding to rest in your heart and mind. You are His child whom He loves. Then, thank God for His unchanging love and for loving you always.

- You or a family member may be facing some problems at the moment. You are still God's child regardless of the problems you face. So, present those problems to God and trust in His unfailing love for you. Ask God for the grace and resources you believe you would need to manage those problems. Ask for courage, strength, community support, wisdom and understanding, etc.
- You may know of a fellow brother or sister in Church who is facing problems in life. Intercede for them – present them before God. Ask God to help them understand and experience His love for them and that they would not succumb to doubts and fears. Pray that God would provide resources and relief to them that they may be able to remain steadfast under stress.
- Pray for your pre-believing family members and friends who are facing problems now, that they may find hope, deliverance and salvation in God alone. Pray for God's prevenient grace to work in their lives so that they may come to know Jesus as their one true saviour. Pray for those whom we do not know but are overwhelmed with different kinds of problems. Pray for God to be gracious and merciful towards them, leading them to a place of repentance and salvation.

*"But now, this is what the LORD says—*

*He who created you, O Jacob,*

*He who formed you, O Israel:*

*"Fear not, for I have redeemed you;*

*I have summoned you by name; you are mine.*

*When you pass through the waters,*

*I will be with you;*

*and when you pass through the rivers,*

*they will not sweep over you.*

*When you walk through the fire,*

*you will not be burned;*

*the flames will not set you ablaze."*

*Isa. 43:1,2*

***If you need any prayer or pastoral care support, kindly contact the pastoral care team via:***

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