

INTRODUCTION

1. Rm 8:31-35 last LD - Jd 1:20-21. The elect cannot be separated from Christ's love, but the elect are warned not to apostatize. Rm 8:17-18. We experience closeness of Christ in crucible of suffering - especially for righteousness.
2. Paul has asked a series of questions - we are legally loved: v34. Experienced in reality of life lived in this age: *sufferings of this present time* [v18].

1st: Who or What?

1. v35a pronoun: *who, which, what*, even *why*. 'Who' or a 'what'?
2. *Who*- context of legal love in v31-34.
3. *What* - context of various sufferings: v35; 38-39.

2nd: Our Tribulations

1. *Tribulation* = main category described in 6 ways: different kinds of tribulations
 - i. *tribulation*: press against, circumstance *affliction, trouble* (Rm 5.3)
 - ii. *distress*: narrow place - an internal experience or external situation
 - iii. *persecution*: to pursue: systematic program that oppresses & harasses
 - iv. *famine*: hunger - scarcity of food
 - v. *nakedness*: destitution; poverty - w/o material goods, shelter, provisions
 - vi. *peril*: dangerous circumstances; health & life at risk
 - vii. *sword*: synecdoche for war, conflict, violence - threat to life.
2. Jesus - Jn 16:33; Paul - A14:21-22. How are we reading our Bibles?
3. John - Rv 1:9 *participation in the tribulation* - how? Rv 12:11.
4. We are legally loved: alive in the resurrected Lord Jesus whose love will enable us to persevere through tribulation - especially tribulation brought on by our loyalty to Jesus: He has overcome the world.