

A LOVE LIKE NONE OTHER

ROMANS 8:38-39 – ERIC SIMPSON – AUGUST 20, 2017

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³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ 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.

"When the thing about me that I most deeply know is that I am deeply loved by God, I have taken the first step toward a heart knowing of God." – David Benner

"The desert can offer a unique opportunity to experience the depth of God's love...in the desert you come to God and you haven't prayed well (or maybe at all), you have been battered by temptation, rocked by doubts, and feel you may be more hindrance than help to whatever work God may be doing in the world. Yet even so you hear the words, "I still love you. I could not love you more than I do now...you are the object of my undying affection. You are the beloved." – John Ortberg

*O God of endings,
you promised to be with me always,
even to the end of time.
Move with me now in these occasions of last things, of shivering
vulnerabilities and letting go:
 letting go of parents gone, past gone,
 friends going, old self growing;
 letting go of children grown, needs outgrown,
 illusions overgrown;
 letting go of swollen grudges and shrunken loves,
Be with me in the end of things...
In silence, Lord, I feel now the curious blend of
 grief and gladness in me
And I listen for your leading
 to help me faithfully move on through the fear
 of my time to let go
 so the timeless may take hold of me.
Amen.
– Ted Loder*

