

words of hope

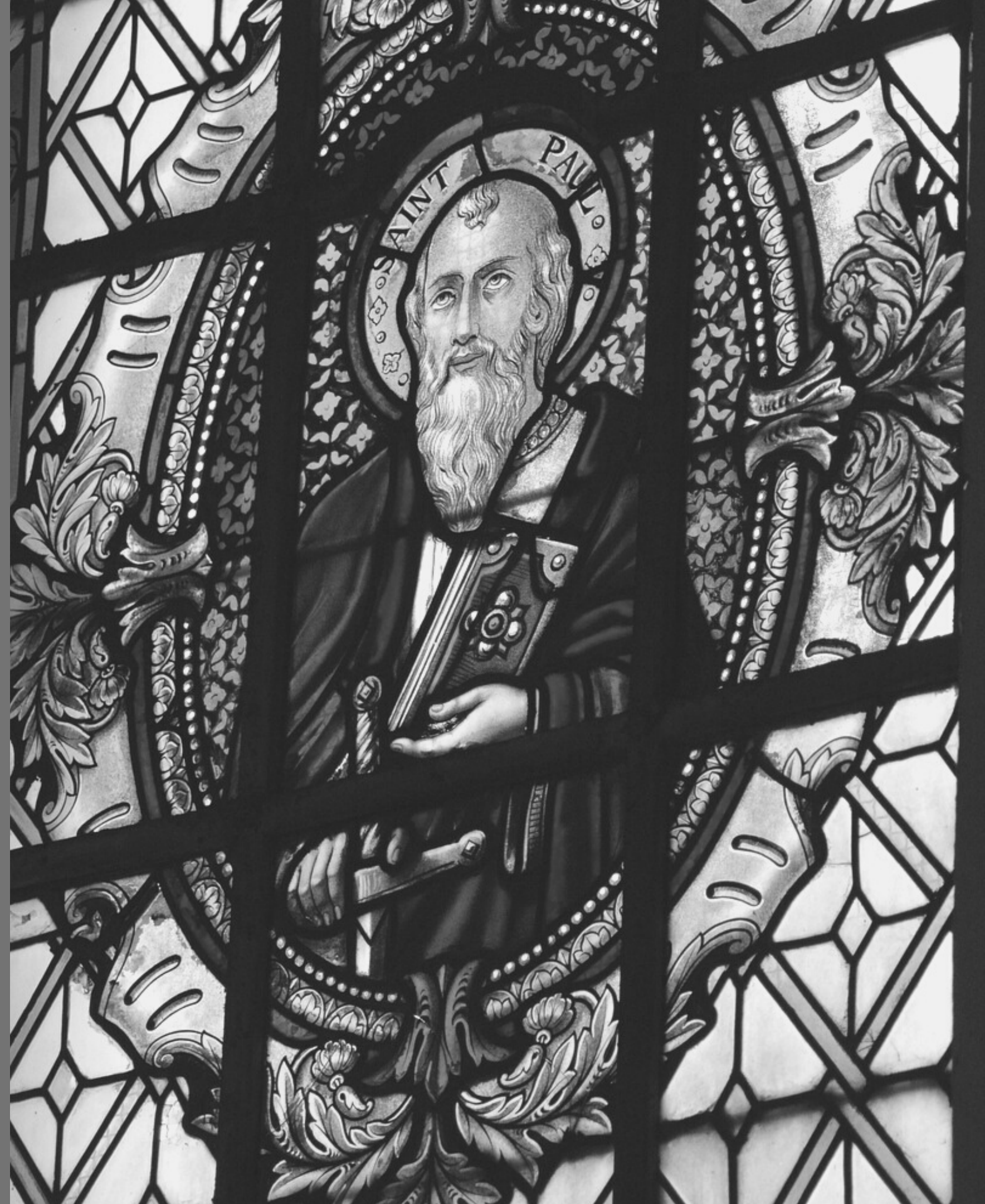
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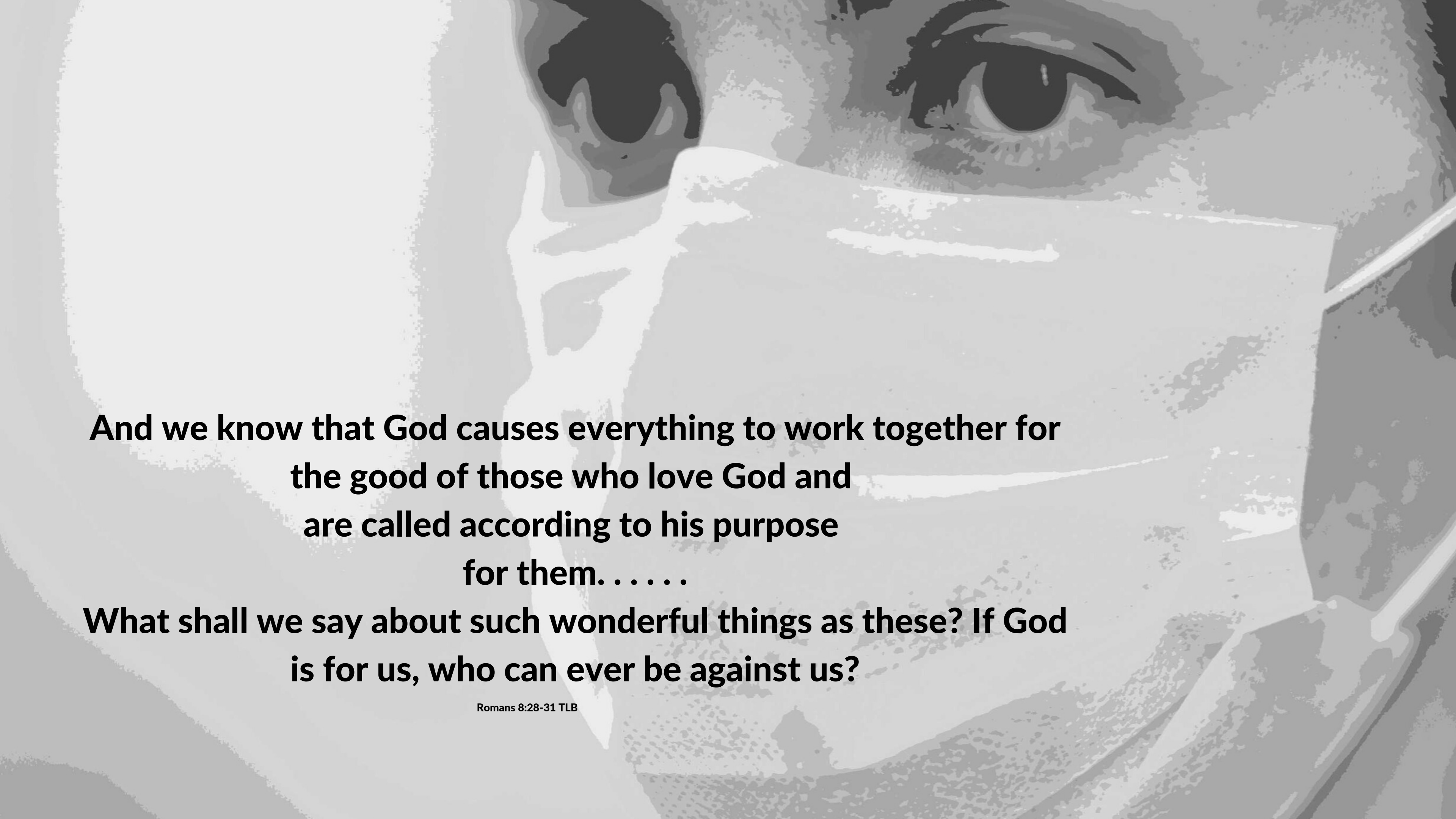
Over 2,000 years ago, a man named Paul wrote to encourage people in Rome who were going through some tough times.

He knew what he was talking about. His message had been mocked, his character and motives maligned. He'd lost everything; he'd been beaten, stoned, left for dead.

But he also knew God and with the hope that gave him, he sent a letter to the people in Rome to encourage them.

Here is some of what he said.

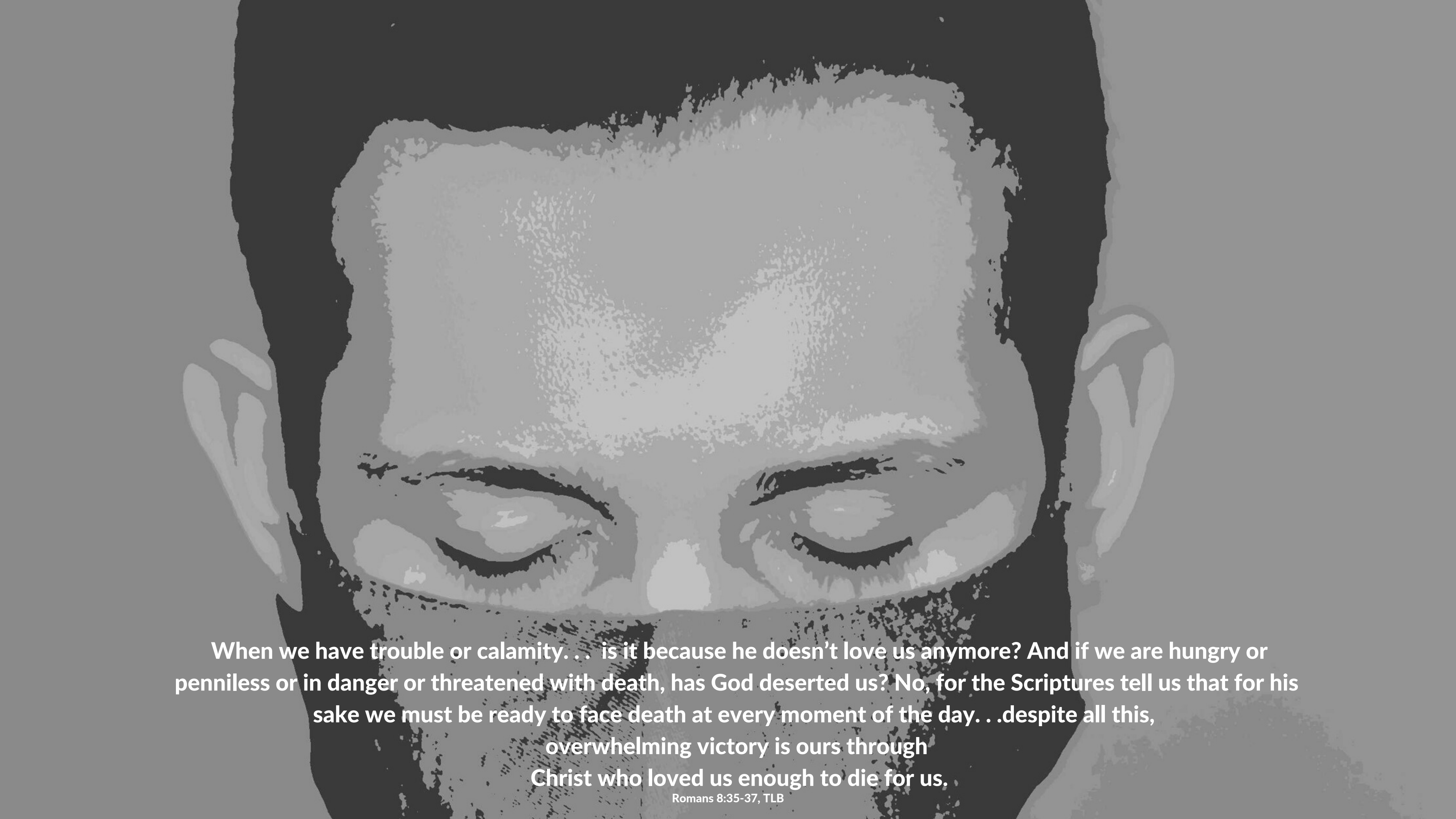




**And we know that God causes everything to work together for
the good of those who love God and
are called according to his purpose
for them.**

**What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God
is for us, who can ever be against us?**

Romans 8:28-31 TLB



When we have trouble or calamity... is it because he doesn't love us anymore? And if we are hungry or penniless or in danger or threatened with death, has God deserted us? No, for the Scriptures tell us that for his sake we must be ready to face death at every moment of the day...despite all this, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ who loved us enough to die for us.

Romans 8:35-37, TLB

**In all these
things we
are more
than
conquerors
through him
that loved
us.**

Rom. 8:24-25 TLB



**Our fears for today, our
worries about
tomorrow, or where we
are—high above the
sky, or in the deepest
ocean—nothing will
ever be able to
separate us from the
love of God
demonstrated by our
Lord Jesus Christ when
he died for us.**

Rom. 8:38-39, TLB





**We are saved by trusting.
And trusting means looking
forward to getting something
we don't yet have—for a man
who already has something
doesn't need to hope and trust
that he will get it.**

**But if we must keep trusting
God for something that hasn't
happened yet,
it teaches us to wait patiently
and confidently.**

Rom. 8:24-25 TLB

I don't think there's any comparison between the present hard times and the coming good times.

The created world itself can hardly wait for what's coming next. Everything in creation is being more or less held back. God reins it in until both creation and all the creatures are ready and can be released at the same moment into the glorious times ahead.

Meanwhile, the joyful anticipation deepens.

Rom. 8:18-21,MSG

