Friday Reflections

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. – Romans 8:38-39

Have you ever felt unloved or devalued? Sometimes life and some of the people we come in contact with can be very discouraging. An unkind word, an unanswered call, or even a certain "look" can be unnerving. As humans, we crave and need to be loved. God created us to live in community and relationship, but sometimes that can be tricky.

One thing to remember is what Paul wrote in Romans 8. We are NEVER unloved. Even when it feels like the whole world has turned its back on us, there is One who never has and never will – our Father in Heaven.

People are going to disappoint us at times and make us feel unappreciated or unloved. It happens to us all, and to be honest, we probably have done that to others as well. The good news is that when we accept God's unconditional love, He can begin a work in us that strengthens us for those difficult times and helps us to treat others with the love God wants us to express to them.

So drink deeply today of God's love. Accept it, even when you don't feel very lovable, because God's desire is that we experience and believe in his massive love for all of us. It's good for you, it's good for me, and it's good for those around us as His love spills out of our lives and into theirs!

Father in heaven, thank you that I am never not loved by you, no matter how my day has gone, and that you forgive us and give us a new chance every day to walk with you and share your love with others!

- **Dr. Doug Shafer** M.Div., D. Min., Caraday Chaplain

