

Romans 8-2 **May 21, 2012**

We have been studying the 8th chapter of Romans but lets do some review. I have titled the Chapters of Romans in my bible so I can return and quickly find a verse. Paul was very organized in his writing and all his letters follow a pattern, Romans is no different. In the first eleven chapters of Romans Paul is teaching doctrine. In chapters 12-16 we will see the practical application to our lives of the doctrine he has patiently taught.

In the first Chapter of Romans verses 1-17 we read that God has revealed Himself in creation, that the gospel is the power of God unto salvation and that all Gentiles have sinned and are under judgment of God. In Romans two, my title is "God has judged the Jews as sinners", so these two chapters teach us that all are sinners and Paul is not letting the Jews off the hook even those who keep the LAW. Chapter 3 sums up the first two chapters in verse 23, which tells us "all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God". But also Chapter 3 gives us some good news; there is a righteousness which can be obtained apart from keeping the rules of the LAW". Chapter 4 tells us that Abraham believed God and that faith in God's promise, was reckoned to him as righteousness. Here is the first hint of how man can be made right with God; he is justified on the basis of faith. Chapter 5 of Romans explains that there is reconciliation with God through the life and death of our Messiah, Jesus Christ. Chapter 6 Paul teaches us that when we received Christ as our Savior by faith we are buried in the likeness of his death and raised to walk in newness of life, we are dead to sin and alive to God. Chapter 7 explains we are also dead to the LAW when we have been saved by faith. Chapter 8 which we began last week gives us the good news that when we are saved by faith, we are alive to the Spirit of God, there is no condemnation and we will soon see there is also no separation possible once we are joined with Christ.

So here we being with Romans 8:11

Romans 8:11

These mortal bodies are short-lived but our spirit is imperishable and because Holy Spirit indwells us giving our eternal life will be spent with God in heaven. Please note, all human spirits are imperishable and those unregenerated by faith in Christ will spend eternity separated from God. The Name of the Holy Spirit here is the Spirit of Him Who raised up Jesus from the dead. The Holy Spirit is presented to us as the Spirit of resurrection life, linking Him with the truth that is presented in the second verse of this chapter where we read that the "law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus has set me free from the law of sin and death. The Holy Spirit Who comes to live in us when we are born again is none other than the Spirit of the Heavenly Father; the Almighty God Who raised Jesus from the dead. The death of our mortal body is simply a transition time into being with Christ. This is why we have hope and the future no matter how old we are. We have God's treasure in the earthen vessels of our bodies.

Did you notice this verse contains the presence of all three members of the God head; God the Father, Jesus our Savior and the Holy Spirit. Always take note of those verses. There are others in Luke and in John where Jesus is immersed in baptism and the Presence of all three; Father Son and Holy Spirit are mentioned.

You should find enough evidence to convince you that our God is Three, One in essence, Three in responsibility. Here God has plainly revealed that if we have given our life to Christ, we have the Holy Spirit indwelling us.

Romans 8:12-13

This "so then" or "therefore" which begins the verse requires to dig in and find out what it is there for.

When we look back at our previous verses we see that the truth we are building on is this; the Holy Spirit of God, who raised up the LORD Jesus from the dead is living in the believer and He will keep on giving life within our mortal bodies. We will have victory in our lives by the power of the Holy Spirit even though our flesh is weak. Since God has given us the power to have victory over our flesh we are debtors to Him to exercise our right to victory. We have no obligation to our dying flesh. This is truth for those who have been born again; those who have not been saved do not have the Holy Spirit in dwelling them.

We are under no obligation to obey the impulses of our flesh. Even though our mortal bodies may have sinful habits we can still say no to ourselves and yes to Christ.

Romans 8:14

This is something to keep in mind; God has given us descriptions of those who are his children. Here He says those who are led by the Holy Spirit are sons of God. It should be apparent in the life that the Holy Spirit is leading, are we willing to follow Him? In John we are told that those who receive Christ are given the power to become the children of God. People are fond of saying we are all children of God I think you can see for yourself that is not true, God's children have a specific description given here in God's word.

There is no universal fatherhood of God. God created everyone and in a sense all belong to Him but without His life in you, you are not His child. Someone used the illustration of a cabinetmaker; he creates a piece of furniture, but it is not his child since it does not have his life within it.

God has given us the authority and power the right and the permission to become His children. Our enemy wants to water down this truth by saying everyone is God's child. Jesus said here are two families and two fatherhoods in this world. (John 8) There is the family of the devil as Jesus said to some Pharisees "you are of your father the devil". And there is the family of God through the regenerative work of the Holy Spirit. Jesus said if we are God's children we love Him (Jesus). So that is the test, does the one who insists he is a child of God love Jesus?

What do you understand happens when we become a child of God?

We who were once children of darkness are now children of the light according to Ephesians 5:8. We were once children of wrath and are now objects of affection and are children of His love and faith and obedience. Ephesians 2:2,3. And further along here in Romans 8 we see that we are heirs of God, along with Jesus Christ. I have done nothing to merit such a gift as being called the child of God and furthermore nothing can be done to achieve it, no traditions, no rituals, birth brings forth a child and the new birth makes you a child of God. That is why Jesus said in John 3 "you must be born again", notice it is a command.

Romans 8:15-16

Are you fearful; are you in bondage to fear? We are not slaves cowering in fear before for a terrible master. We are adopted children of the living God and God's Holy Spirit leads us if we will follow him. This verse is telling us that we should expect to have an inward confirmation of the Holy Spirit's presence in our life.

Romans 8:17

The Jewish people believed that they would have an inheritance with God but here we learn that those who trust Christ will all have an inheritance with him. An inheritance with God because we are God's children we will share the treasure and the joy of living in heaven with him. As believers therefore, we will share His glory but also at some time that we must share His suffering. No matter how deep we go in suffering He has been there before us.

There is a connection between suffering and glory; sharing the glory of Christ will come after we share his suffering. The glory we share with Christ in the future is a wonderful destiny for believers but also it signals a new day for all of creation. Sin has imprisoned people and the creation we must wait for God's timing to be free depending on the Holy Spirit who helps us.

Romans 8:18

"The sufferings of this present time", suffering has been the common lot of the human race since the entrance of sin into the world. There is physical suffering, aches and pains, disease and accidents. There is also mental anguish of various types. All humans are subject to suffering whether saved or unsaved. Since we have learned that there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus we have to understand that suffering is not punishment for sin although we will suffer the consequences of sin. There is the anguish of seeing loved ones suffer. It is a special kind of suffering God has called me to experience as I have watched my husband, once vigorous and healthy slowly succumbing to Parkinson's disease. He has been sick for 11 years and I never could have imagined the difficulties we have faced to now. I know that it will continue. This suffering however, has had a purifying effect on both of us, just as gold is refined in the furnace; the furnace of chronic degenerative disease purifies the soul. I am sure some of you have experienced the same kind of suffering. Jesus said; "in this world you will have trouble".

Here we are promised that there is to be a glory revealed in us at some moment and the sufferings of this life will not matter at all. Look at 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 "Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison while we look not at the things which are seen, for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal".

Remember this is all from the pen of Paul, the man who was beaten, shipwrecked, bitten by poison snake, rejected by loved ones, and imprisoned for preaching the truth. He knew about suffering. He also knew he had hope and a future.

What is it that we are to inherit? We don't know yet about that glory will be revealed to us in the future. But this we do know; if the suffering of this life were put on a scale and weighed against the weight of the glory that eternal weight we will find these sufferings very light by

comparison. As Matthew Henry said "the sufferings of this world are small and short and concern the body only but the glory to come is rich and great and concerns the soul, and is eternal". Paul said, "I consider" which means he had reasoned and thought about this a great deal and was in a position to know first hand about the glory about which we only speculate. Remember 2 Corinthians 12:3 where Paul describes how he was "taken up into paradise and heard inexpressible words and saw glorious things" which he does not describe but refers to here. So Paul is not just mouthing pious platitudes, this man said that somehow God was able to show him the glories of Paradise and after all he suffered he said it was nothing compared to the eternal glory we will experience with Christ.

And there is more to this expectation of glory;

Romans 8:19-21

What has happened to creation? Take a look at Genesis 3:17. God said to Adam; "because you listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you saying you shall not eat from it: cursed the ground because of you; in toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it will grow for you and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you will eat bread, till you return to the ground because from that you were taken, for you are dust, and to dust you shall return".

And so this is a curse God put on the ground when Adam sinned and this is the curse that the whole creation is waiting to be freed from by the Lord Jesus Christ. When Adam sinned everything on earth was subjected to God's curse, to change and decay. This word futility means ineffective and useless. There is impurity, deformity and infirmity that all creatures are subject to since sin entered the world. There is continuous fighting, wars and decay; much of the environment has been ruined.

All creatures are subjected to suffering because of Adam's sin, certainly not their own choice. Sin is a burden to the whole creation.

So the whole creation is subjected to futility, not of its own will, but because God's purpose was thwarted by the disobedience of Adam. However, at the same time the creation was cursed, it was given hope, in the end all of created life will be rescued, set free. God is Sovereign, He has a plan, and He is good. Just think of Isaiah's promise; "But the day shall come when the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea". Isaiah 11:9

Just think how wonderful it will be when God removes the curse and Creation is as He planned. So the Bible is telling us that all creation is looking forward to that wonderful day when it will join God's children and freedom from death and decay. In Revelation 22:3 we see this promise; "there will no longer be any curse and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it and His bond servants will serve Him and they will see His face and his name will be on the forehead". God is going to make all things new.

When God cleans up the creation from all the pollution and the curse of death and decay – it will be a wonderful sight to behold. The entire creation is looking for the wonderful day when He makes all things new, as He has promised.