

Romans 8 – 2

May 29, 2012

We have been studying the 8th chapter of Romans for several weeks now and its obvious that there is a lot for us to learn as we take this study one verse at a time. We have learned that once we have accepted Christ as our Savior we have been justified, or declared righteous by God, there can be no condemnation.

We also have been reminded that if the Holy Spirit is indwelling us, then our spirit has been made alive eternally and eventually Jesus will give us new bodies to replace this flesh that has been the cause of so much suffering and sin for so long.

Romans 8:22-23

Paul is saying that the whole creation is groaning as if in childbirth, the pains are coming closer together and are more intense. Creation cannot rest until the plan of God is fulfilled. And the child of God is also living a life of labor pains. Even though we have been given the gift of the Holy Spirit indwelling us-the first fruits or the beginning, we are in a kind of state of anticipation of the new life awaiting us in eternity.

God tells us we are to be raised from the dead, a resurrection which not only we but the whole creation is waiting. Do you have any doubt about the resurrection of believers? Look at 1 John 3:2 "We know that when He (Jesus) shall appear we shall be like Him for we shall see Him as He is". We know from our studies that Jesus resurrection body was real, recognizable because His disciples knew Him, they ate meals with Him and He invited them to touch Him and see that He had flesh and bones. David said in Psalm 17:15 "As for me, I shall behold Thy face in righteousness; I will be satisfied with Thy likeness when I awake". And then Philippians 3:20-21 "For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory by the working of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself". Another way of saying this is; Jesus by the power that enables Him to bring everything under control will transform our lowly bodies to be like His glorious body. These are the promises of a God Who is immutable and cannot lie.

Romans 8:24-25

We are not saved by hope as the KJV says, we are saved by grace through faith. Some of the bible translations give the wrong idea here, so remember, we are hoping for salvation because of the real promise of our God. Because we have faith in Him we expect to be saved. We are pressing, straining as we are stepping heavenward. Let me remind you of what Peter said: "Therefore (since you have been born again) gird up you minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ". I Peter 1:13

The bible definition of the word hope is to anticipate or expect. In the Christian sense it is the joyful and confident expectation of eternal salvation.

Consider this regarding hope; there is a hope that comes from salvation, in other words, when I accepted Christ as my Savior, I understood that I had the hope of eternal life but also the sure and present hope of the Holy Spirit indwelling me, guiding my life.

Hebrews 6:19 tells us that "the hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast and one that enters within the veil". Have you ever thought of hope as an anchor for your soul? What an amazing promise, the hope is so certain, it is an anchor and it will keep us from drifting. Its also steadfast, which means persistent and unswerving, of course that is what an anchor must be, steadfast, immovable.

The promise of 1 Thessalonians 5:8 is protection for our mind, yes, hope protects our thought life. "But since we are of the day, let us be sober (clear minded serious), having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation".

1 Peter 1:5 tells us something more about this wonderful gift of God; hope;" Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead". Jesus is alive, our Hope is alive.

Romans 8:26-27

We have talked about the groaning of the whole creation because it has been cursed and is subjected to suffering and decay. We said that men and women groan within ourselves because of the difficulties of this life and now we find that 'likewise' the Holy Spirit is helping us, interceding with groaning which cannot be uttered. The Holy Spirit is groaning within us as we groan in the middle of a groaning creation.

Now Paul tells us two privileges to which Christians are entitled; first of all the help of the Holy Spirit in prayer. While we are in the world we are hoping and waiting and we must be praying but we have a weakness in that area. We don't know how to pray or what to pray for, what should we request. We are so biased by our flesh and our sin nature we are apt to ask amiss. Even Paul says he needs help in praying correctly. Friends, sometimes I come to God so burdened for a friend or a family member I don't know what to say, it's as if I am groaning in my spirit for that person.

Secondly the Holy Spirit helps our infirmities, our praying infirmities, not knowing how or what to ask. Our Father provides the Holy Spirit living in us to make intercession for us, but also Christ is in heaven making intercession for us. All we need to do is come before the Father and wait quietly while He prays in us. We cannot speak what the Holy Spirit is praying; He knows what needs to be said. Sometimes I am in such a hurry or I get so distracted that I do not pray as I should, but the Holy Spirit living in me prays, as I should.

Look what he is doing, He is searching my heart, He understands my groans, at the same time He knows what needs to be said, He knows what we need before we ask. He knows the mind of God so that our prayers with Him will be according to the will of God.

Weymouth said; "the Searcher of hearts knows what the Spirit has in mind because His intercessions for the saint are in harmony with God's will". When you hand over control of your life to the Holy Spirit, you will be led in prayer, even as Jesus was.

Romans 8:28

Please note the words of this verse. I hear frequently "all things work together for good". No that is not what it says; God works all things together, please get this right.

This verse begins with "And" so it is linked to the previous verses. We have seen the Holy Spirit is indwelling the believer and making intercession for him according to the will of God. So God's spirit is directing each believer according to a definite plan.

There is a divine plan for your life and for my life and it is fitting into a divine plan for the whole world. Your heavenly Father is going to take everything that happens to you and cause it to work out for your good, sometimes that seems impossible doesn't it? But it is the promise of our immutable God, who cannot lie.

Your life is not the result of some haphazard movement of blind chance. We can make choices, which are not God's will but if we repent God can work those choices for our good. Our all-wise, all-powerful, all loving Father is working all things for your good. What is your part to play in this? Have you answered yes when God has called you? Are you called according to His purpose? If you are not God's child, if you are not born again, the bible plainly teaches that you are ruled by your flesh and by Satan. For the unsaved, those who have turned down God's offer for forgiveness and justification, things work together for ill because they do not

want God in their life, they do not have the love of the LORD, He is not working things for their good. If this is you it can be changed in a moment if you will bow your knee to the living LORD Jesus Christ.

Romans 8:29

What does it mean to be chosen? Foreknowledge and predestination is not determinism. God's foreknowledge does not imply determinism-the idea that all our choices are predetermined. God's foreknowledge implies that He knows beforehand who will decide to accept Christ since He sees all time as present. God knows who will accept the offer of salvation. God's purpose for each of us was determined, it was not an afterthought, He planned from before the world was created for us be His children. Forget about classes in self-esteem, the God of the Universe knew your name before He created the Universe.

Christ is the first born, the first to be raised from the dead, alive forever. In the family of born again believers, Christ is the head, the one to whom we are to be made like, we are to be conformed to His image. It is God's will; He has predestined us, who are born again, to be conformed to the image of Jesus. We cannot do this ourselves, have you tried? No we will be conformed by our Father to the image of our Older Brother, the Heir of all things. Has God called you? Today is the day of salvation. Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your heart again.

"God's plan for those who believe in Christ has 3 steps; chosen, called and glorified. When we are finally conformed to the image of Christ, we will share His glory". "Life Application New Testament Commentary". The JEWISH NEW TESTAMENT COMMENTARY says; "even though from our limited human viewpoint glorification is still in the future, from God's viewpoint it is already accomplished, hence for us a certainty on which we can rely."

Now friends, there is the theme of the glory of the Christian life but also there is the theme of victory. We are victorious in Christ because He is Sovereign over all our lives.

Romans 8:31-32

How much is God for us? He did not spare His own beloved Son. God has done everything for us. He took us when we were sinners, redeemed us, saved us, called us, justified us and now says He sees us as already glorified. God did not just love the world, He loves me and He loves you. Yes we are unworthy; He knows that, He has fixed that problem. He looks at His Son in us and He makes it possible.

God may not always give you what you want when you pray, but He will give you what you need. He gives us everything we need to be glorified.

Romans 8:33-34

If God has declared us righteous, who can accuse us? That "accuser of the brethren", Satan our enemy, the father of liars, who is himself a liar, he is always accusing. The truth is he has no authority or power nor can his accusations influence our heavenly Father.

And don't underestimate the devil's determination to keep you from obedience to God by his accusations and threats. He tried hard to discourage me from doing this bible study, but his lies and accusations don't work, after all if God called me to this ministry, then He will enable me to do it. Whether or not I know how do radio broadcasting really doesn't matter, all I have to be is available.

Just think; Jesus not only saved my soul but He is interceding for me at the throne of my Father, I am not on my own; I have an Advocate who is always with me.