

Session #29: “THE FIRSTFRUITS OF THE SPIRIT”— *Romans 8:18-25*

Monday 7:30pm, H 106 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by doughnut/vending machine area),

Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell # 714 425 9221; email - philtwente@att.net

For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/> Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column under “Site Map”

Note: Reference has been made in the following notes to commentaries on Romans by Pastor Chuck Smith, David Hocking and William Newell.

Questions:

- How would you compare the believer’s sufferings in this present time with the glory which shall be revealed?
- How would you define “earnest expectation” in verse 19?
- Does the Bible teach that we believers groan within ourselves? Have you ever hurt so badly you simply groan within yourself?
- What does the hope, referred to in verse 24, bring us to?
- How does the hope, referred to in verses 24 & 25, help us?

THE PRINCIPLES OF THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD - *Romans 1:18-8:39*

Principle #1 - CONDEMNATION - *1:18-3:20*

Principle #2 - JUSTIFICATION - *3:21-5:21* (we are declared righteous by what Jesus Christ has done!)

Principle #3 - SANCTIFICATION - *6:1-7:25*

Principle #4 - SECURITY - *8:1-39* (Begins with “no condemnation”, ends with “no separation”!)

1A. GIVEN BY THE PRESENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT - *ROMANS 8:1-17*

- 2A. GROUNDING IN OUR HOPE - *ROMANS 8:18-25* (Comfort the afflicted)
- 1B. The REVELATION of future glory - *8:18*
- 2B. The REALIZATION of future deliverance - *8:19-23*
- 3B. The REALITY of our present hope - *8:24-25*
- 1B. The REVELATION of future glory - *8:18*

Rom 8:18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

v. 18 - “I consider (reckon)” - Greek: *logizomai* - to reason, to calculate - use logic

“sufferings of this present time” - Types of suffering include physical aches and pains, illness, mental anguish and stress, loneliness and isolation, misunderstandings and strained relationships, loss of loved ones, concern for the spiritual condition of others, especially family, guilt feelings and bad self-image, physical deprivation and hunger, etc. *2 Cor. 11:23-30; 12:9-10*

“When we are going through difficult times, we often give them too much consideration, fail to look at the coming glory, and lose our balance, and sense of proportion.” (quote from Lenski) None of us wants to go through difficult times, but the ultimate purpose of life is not to be healed in these bodies, but to die and receive our resurrected bodies and to praise and give glory to God forever!! - cf. *1 Peter 4:12-13*

“worthy” - Greek: *axios* (balance)

“The glory which shall be revealed” It is obviously greater than any of our sufferings. *1 Cor. 2:9*;

We need to be reminded daily of the future glory that awaits us—one day it will worth it all, when we see Jesus!! No comparison – momentary suffering vs. eternal glory!!

- 2B. The REALIZATION of future deliverance - *8:19-23* - cf. *Titus 2:13*
Consider the following five things:

1C. The Return of Jesus Christ – 18

2C. The Revealing of the sons of God – 19

3C. The Release of all creation from bondage - 20-22

4C. The Reunion of all believers

5C. The Redemption of our bodies – 23

1C. The Return of Jesus Christ – 18 - “*the glory which shall be revealed*” - Col. 3:4
cf. John 14:1-3; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Th. 1:10;

*Rom 8:19 For the **earnest expectation** of the creation **eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.***

2C. The Revealing of the sons of God – 19 - “*earnest expectation*” to watch with the head stretched from the body! An intense watching and waiting - cf. Matt. 24:42, 44; 25:13; 1 Cor. 1:7; Gal. 5:5; Phil. 3:20; Heb. 9:28;

*Rom 8:20 For **the creation was subjected to futility** (vanity, emptiness), not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it **in hope**;*

*Rom 8:21 because the creation itself also **will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty** of the children of God.*

*Rom 8:22 For we know that **the whole creation groans and labors** with birth pangs together **until now**.*

3C. The Release of all creation from bondage - 20-22 - “*the creation was subjected to futility*” NKJV - “*futility*” NIV - “*frustration*” - failed to achieve purpose – Gen. 3:14-19 - cf. Isaiah 65:17 Rev. 21:1 speaks of “*new heavens*” and a “*new earth*” Greek word for “*new*” is not “new in time, but new in contrast to what is old (kainos) - cf. 2 Peter 3:6-13 He caused it all so we would believe and hope in the coming deliverance of the Lord!

4C. The Reunion of all believers - 1 Th. 4:13-18 The purpose of the Lord is that we all meet at the same time and the same place!

*Rom 8:23 Not only that, **but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting** for the adoption, the **redemption of our body.***

5C. The Redemption of our bodies – 23 - cf. Phil. 3:20-21; 1 John 3:1-3- Thomas A Kempis to his body said: “*O how glorious and resplendent, fragile body, thou shalt be, when endued with so much beauty, full of health, and strong and free, full of vigor, full of pleasure, thou shalt last eternally!*” Our bodies are going to be released from the bondage they are in!!

- 3B. The REALITY of our present hope - 8:24-25

*Rom 8:24 For **we were saved in this hope**, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees?*

*Rom 8:25 But **if we hope** for what we do not see, **we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.***

1C. It brings us to Salvation – 24 - “*we were saved in this hope*” - cf. Hebrews 6:17-19 Polycarp!

2C. It helps us in our present Suffering – 25 - “*we eagerly wait for it with perseverance*” (endurance-bearing up under the load) One day I’ll be set free!!! Romans 8:18; 1 Peter 1:3-5; 2 Cor. 4:16-5:6;

My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less

1.-- My hope is built on nothing less; Than Jesus’ blood and righteousness.

I dare not trust the sweetest frame, But wholly trust in Jesus’ Name.

Refrain - On Christ the solid Rock I stand, All other ground is sinking sand;

All other ground is sinking sand.

2. --When darkness seems to hide His face, I rest on His unchanging grace.

In every high and stormy gale, My anchor holds within the veil.