

## **THIS WEEK'S STUDY: 9/26-27/2022 *Romans Chapter 8:14-25!***

**PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE STUDY!**

**MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)**

**THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN CLASSROOM HS107, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!**

**MEETING ID# - 87858644763 Passcode: 087484**

Join Zoom Meeting -

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**Meeting ID: 878 5864 4763 - Passcode: 087484**

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**TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada).**

**THE TUESDAY MORNING STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN THE FAMILY ROOM, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!**

**MEETING ID# - 85309150746 - Passcode: 715340**

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### **OPENING PRAYER**

**Theme of the Book of Romans: “Righteousness by Faith” – 1:16-17**

***Romans Chapter 8 – No Condemnation....No Separation!* Theme: The great theme of Chapter Eight is the security of the Christian, the absolute certainty of the “final perseverance” of the saints and of the ultimate, complete and entire salvation of everyone who believes in the Lord Jesus Christ!**

**TEXT:**

**(Rom 8:14-25)** *For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. [15] For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." [16] The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, [17] and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together. [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. [19] For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. [20] For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; [21] because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. [22] For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. [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. [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? [25] But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.*

**Review of last study: (Rom 8:12-13)** *Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. [13] For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.*

**Rom 8:14** *For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.*

- **A Proof that we are the sons of God!** How does this section follow from the previous one? [13] *For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.* Paul seems to say, if we are putting to death the deeds of the body by the Spirit in that way, it means that we are obviously being led by the Spirit to do so. If we are thus being led by the Spirit, that is, in and of itself, a proof that we are the *sons of God!* Only a believer puts to death the deeds of the body, no one else submits to the leading of the Spirit. Therefore, the fact that you are doing so, is proof positive that you are not only led by the Spirit, but are therefore, of necessity, *sons of God!*
- **Paul had introduced his new theme that of the assurance and absolute certainty** of our final salvation in terms of our divine sonship. The theme runs on to the end of verse 17. It is one of the most glorious themes, in the whole of Scripture. There is nothing more wonderful than that we should come to the realization that we *are sons of God!*
- **The Apostle's greatest concern is that we should know and realize** that we are *sons of God*, that we should be rejoicing, praising God, and crying "*Abba, Father!*" Also, that we should be delivered from *the spirit of bondage*. His desire is for us to be so sure of this, that no matter what may come from the outside, we shall remain fully confident that we are heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ! If so be that *we suffer with Him, we shall also be glorified with Him!*
- **It should not be surprising that the Apostle should emphasize the truth** that "*For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.*" That is what we are now, nothing less! We should always think of ourselves, therefore in these terms! It does not matter what may be happening without or within, this is the basic truth! This is the real ground of assurance! I am not merely forgiven! *I am a son of God!* I belong to the family of God! I was not *a son of God* by natural birth! But now I am! (**Gal 3:26**) *For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. (Joh 1:12) But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:*
- **So beloved, now are we the sons of God.** Those that are led by the Spirit of God. The question is, "Is my life being led by the Spirit of God?" Do I seek to know the will of God and to follow the will of God?

Do I seek the leading of the Spirit? It is unfortunate that there are many people today who are resting their hope for salvation in something other than a relationship with Jesus Christ, being filled and led by the Spirit. A lot of people are not even worried about their salvation because they were baptized when they were infants. They are trusting in that experience as an infant that they weren't even conscience of, or trusting in their good, morale, behavior to somehow secure their salvation.

**Rom 8:15 For you did not receive the *spirit of bondage again to fear*, but *you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."***

- ***For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear.*** It is most important that we should examine ourselves regarding whether we have ever realized to some degree this *spirit of bondage*, this awareness that we are sinful, unworthy and helpless, that we cannot save ourselves, and that we need to be delivered!
- **The degree of intensity is not the issue as much as just having a sense** of your own condemnation and of sinfulness this awareness of bondage, inability, and helplessness, that finally makes a man cry out, O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from this body of death?
- **In true conversion, there is always some degree of realization of the horror of sin within**, and that we are bondslaves to sin, and there is also the desire, to be delivered from it! If we examine ourselves, prove and test ourselves, giving ourselves no rest or peace until we can say definitely, I have known the spirit of bondage and fear. Furthermore, I now know something about the Spirit of adoption also, whereby I say, Abba, Father, then your case is clear!
- **What produces the spirit of bondage and fear is not your upbringing or your number of sins** you have committed, not the sheltered or unsheltered life you may have lived. It is your relationship to God! Your knowledge of God. Essentially, it is not negative, but positive. Thus it comes to pass that those who are most aware of their sinfulness and are most aware of the love of God in forgiveness, are not of necessity those who have been drunkards or murderers or adulterers. They are those who positively, have the greatest knowledge of God, which is what determines the sense of sin and the sense of forgiveness. So, seek God! Seek the knowledge of God! Forget all else! It does not matter what you may have been. To know something of God means to know something of the depth of sin within yourself and to see the absolute need of what has been done alone through God's dear Son by His death upon the Cross!
- **The receiving of "the Spirit of adoption"** is a very special form or type of assurance, which can be called the second type of assurance. We found the first assurance in *verse 14. As many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.* If a person is satisfied, having tested himself, that he is being led by the Spirit, he can be assured that he is a son of God. That is the first type of assurance. But in the fifteenth verse there is another, which can be called a higher type of assurance. It is the assurance that a Christian has, who is aware within himself of the Spirit of adoption that makes him cry, "Abba, Father!"
- **Now Abba, is the Hebrew word for father.** It is used again in Galatians, where Paul speaks about our saying, *Abba, Father.* It is just saying Father, in Hebrew and then the Father, in Greek. So, *Abba, Father, Father (pater).* The *Abba* is sort of an endearing kind of personal greeting. It would probably be translated into English as Daddy. Like a child, that recognition of his daddy.
- **Furthermore, it is suggested that this is one of the manifestations of the baptism** with the Holy Spirit. A further manifestation is the one we shall find in **(Rom 8:16) *The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.*** These may be the two main manifestations of the baptism with the Holy Spirit which happened to the Apostles on the Day of Pentecost, also to the believers in Samaria, and to Cornelius and his household.
- **But you received the Spirit of adoption!** This shows that here, the "*receiving of the Spirit of adoption*" is passive and not active. It is not something which we are to "take," still less are we to "claim" it. Instead, we receive it!

**Rom 8:16 *The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.***

- **Following our knowing that the spirit of bondage and of fear has been removed**, and that we have

received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry *Abba, Father!* This is one of the most profound experiences one can ever know and one we should all seek and covet, never being satisfied until we are rejoicing in it!

- **We now come to this ultimate step in this verse, *The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God!*** This is one of the most glorious statements concerning Christian experience found anywhere in the Bible from beginning to end. Nothing is more important from the standpoint of experience, happiness, and joy in the Christian life, and from the standpoint of enjoying our great salvation! This verse has always been dear to the hearts of evangelical Christians ever since the Protestant Reformation, for there is no other verse which shows so clearly the difference between Protestantism and Roman Catholicism as this verse. The Catholic teaching is that a Christian can never be sure of his salvation, not only in this life, but there is even uncertainty beyond death.
- **We can note a similar, parallel statement to this in (*Joh 7:37-39*)** *On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. [38] He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." [39] But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.* Here we find a prophecy concerning the coming of the Holy Spirit and His effect upon believers. They will know complete satisfaction! Not only so, but they will become the means of blessing to large numbers of other people! Is the Holy Spirit flowing forth from your life like a river of living water?
- **Note as well, the account of what happened on the day of Pentecost, (*Act 2:2-4*)** *And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. [3] Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. [4] And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.* The disciples has been fearful, apprehensive, and uncertain after the death of our Lord. Even His resurrection appearances, though they had brought them comfort and a certain amount of understanding, they had not produced the vital transforming effect that obviously took place on the day of Pentecost! From then on they are entirely different men. They were baptized by the Holy Spirit!
- **We see in verse 16 and in the two verses** referenced above that this is a peculiar characteristic of what is described here. It is a direct and an immediate witness of the Spirit Himself! It can be described as being a part of the "baptism of the Holy Spirit," in which, in essence, is a particular form of assurance of our sonship of God!
- **This is the same work and power of the Holy Spirit as we see as the "sealing of the Spirit."** Note the following three reference verses: (*2Co 1:22*) *who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.* (*Eph 1:13*) *In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise.* (*Eph 4:30*) *And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.* We see here the Holy Spirit Himself seals these promises to us and thereby testifies with our spirits as to our sonship.
- **The first characteristic of this action of the Spirit Himself** is that the Spirit by a direct operation on our minds, hearts and spirits, gives us an absolute certainty and assurance of our sonship! This is not sanctification, although it helps and promotes it. But it is the Spirit telling us in this unusual way that we are the children of God. He lets us know in a way we have never known before that God loves us, just as stated in (*Rom 5:5*) *Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.* This is what the "sealing" means. This witness which the Spirit bears with our spirit is not only different from and additional to, the 'Spirit of adoption,' it goes well beyond it! That is the real essence of the matter. It takes us into a realm entirely beyond the other!
- **Think of the realm of human love as an illustration.** It is a wonderful thing to tell someone whom you love that you love them, but it is an even more wonderful experience of being told by the other person that he or she loves you! That is the greatest desire and yearning of every lover. It is the exact difference here! In verse 15, we tell God that we love Him. We have 'the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, *Abba,*

Father', the child's cry of love to the Father. But here it is God, through the Spirit, telling us that He loves us and doing so in a most unmistakable manner! It is personal and secret, such as in, (**Rev 2:17**) *"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it."*

- **The action here is even higher and better!** This is the highest and the greatest form of certainty and assurance that one can ever have of the fact that one is a child of God! At the same time, it gives us a better understanding of the whole plan of salvation. There is a kind of an illumination with respect to the truth. The essence is that He is telling you of His love for you! It also leads to that which is seen clearly in the apostles after the day of Pentecost, namely, a desire to witness to Him accompanied by the power and ability to do so! (**Act 4:20**) *For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard."*
- **Is this, the Spirit Himself bearing witness with our Spirit, something we should seek?** If this all-important subject is the highest point which we, as believers, can reach in this world of time, is this, then something that we should seek after? Certainly, obviously, it should be our earnest desire always to enjoy all that is offered to us! We must remember this awesome gift from the Holy Spirit is something that we can only receive from Him! It's not something we can take! We can only desire and ask for it! (**Luk 11:9-10**) *"So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. [10] For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks, it will be opened. We must be careful that we are seeking the right thing. Not an experience or a manifestation, but to seek the knowledge of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ. We want to do everything we can to please Him, doing our utmost to be holy!* As Peter said in (**2Pe 1:5-7**) *But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, [6] to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, [7] to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love.*
- **Give diligence to seek Him in the written Word.** He has often met His people as they have been reading about Him. We must pray! We are to crown all our endeavors in persistently and tenaciously praying! *Ask, seek, knock!* Pray and keep on praying! Let nothing hinder you. Make your desire known to Him to the utmost of your power. Do not give in! Be urgent! Be persistent! Ask, and if you do not get your reply, continue to seek it. If you still have not received, keep on knocking! Hammer on the door! (**Isa 62:7a**) *And give Him no rest till He .....!*

**Rom 8:17 and if (since) children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if (since) indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.**

- **Having emphasized the Spirit as the One who 'seals' us,** the fact that we are the children of God, he goes on to say for that reason He is also the guarantee of the inheritance itself! This confirms that the Spirit's bearing witness with our spirits is the sealing of the Spirit. The very fact that the Apostle goes on immediately to talk about 'inheritance' proves it. Here, he deals with the Spirit in His dual capacity of 'sealing' and 'earnest'. The witness of the Spirit to the fact that we are children, tells us that we are in a position to be inheritors. Now he goes on to tell us something about the character of that inheritance. The purpose is to give us great assurance and certainty with regard to our ultimate, complete and final salvation, which is the theme of the eighth chapter.
- **And if children, then heirs -- heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ.** This is almost too wonderful to comprehend! To think that God has made me His child! And as His child I am now an heir. I'm an heir of God! That makes me a joint heir with Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Because God now calls me as His son. Do we understand that? But God having made us His children, we have all of the rights of a child of God! We have the inheritance! This glorious inheritance! Heirs of God, joint heirs with Jesus Christ!
- **If indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.** Now the suffering that we experience with Christ is not always physical suffering. There are there those today who do suffer physically for Jesus Christ. But most of us suffer in a different way. Our suffering is more of an

emotional type because as a Christian, we are hated by the world. We are an enigma to them. They don't know what to do with us. We make them feel guilty and they don't like that.

- **Jesus said if you were of the world, the world would love its own**, but you are not of the world. He said if the world hated Me, it would also hate you. Thus, we suffer ridicule. We suffer, sometimes, scorn. The reproach of Christ, for people still hate Jesus Christ. As you stand before them as a representative of Jesus Christ, then their hatred of Him falls on you. When they beat the apostles, because of their witness for Jesus Christ, the apostles went their way rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer for Jesus. They realized it's not us that they are angry with, but Jesus, whom we represent. They didn't take it personally. But they recognized that this has come because of their hatred for our Lord. But, oh, aren't we blessed that we were able to suffer persecution for our Lord?

### *Future Glory*

***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.***

- **Paul did experience not only the reproaches for the Gospel's sake**, but Paul did suffer physically. Five times he said, I was beaten with rods. A night and the day in the deep. Scourgings and the whole thing of suffering that Paul endured for the cause of Christ, and yet he said, "*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.*" Paul writing to the Corinthians said, (**2Co 4:17**) *For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.* Now if we endured what Paul endured, we probably would not be calling it light affliction. But Paul was, as he said, not looking at the things which are seen, for the things which are seen are temporal. The things that are not seen are eternal. Paul always had eternity in view. That is a very healthy position to take. To see things in the eternal perspective. It makes all the difference in the world!
- **Catching that eternal perspective is so important** because then we realize that the sufferings that we are going through now, are nothing to be compared with the eternal glory that we are going to be having as the children of God and heirs, joint heirs with Jesus Christ! That's forever! How long do you plan to live on this planet Earth? A hundred years? God forbid! For me, I mean you can live that long if you want. But I don't want to live to be a hundred years old. If the Lord would take me home tonight, I would say thank you, Lord for the full, rich, wonderful life, complete and full, that You have given me.
- **Man is going to be completely and entirely restored in the Lord Jesus Christ**, as the result of his union with Him. But an additional point needs to be emphasized! That is, according to this teaching, man is not only restored to what he was in Adam, he is taken beyond that! Adam was perfect as man, but his perfection fell short of glorification. There was room for development. It is clear that glorification was the ultimate that was intended for man. As Adam was created, he was perfect. There was no blemish, sin or fault in him. He was in a state of innocence, but innocence falls short of glorification. But what is offered to us in Christ, and promised us in Him, is nothing less than glorification! That which man, if he had continued to keep God's commandments, would have arrived, which would have been given to him as a reward for obedience, is the thing that is now freely given to us in and through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!
- **Believers are not only delivered from the Fall and restored to Adam's pre-Fall condition but are granted a far superior blessing!** As we think about glorification, it must be in this way. That man is not only delivered from all the effects of the Fall, and the sin and the transgression of Adam, but is granted a far superior blessings, and given something of the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ Himself!
- **Note the following scriptures:**
  - ✓ **Rom 6:11** *Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*
  - ✓ **Rom 8:17** *and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.*

- ✓ **2Co 3:18** *But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.*
- ✓ **Rom 5:2** *through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.*
- ✓ **Joh 17:24** *"Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.*

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

- **For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits!** It is the creation that is anticipating the coming glory with eagerness, waiting, and craning its neck. These expressions cannot include angels, those fallen and unfallen. Also, it does not include man. Clearly Christian men cannot be included, (**Rom 8:23**) *And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body-*(KJV). So, we exclude men and angels, what remains? We are left with the irrational creation, with the material creation, animate and inanimate, organic and inorganic, which means the animals. It means vegetation flowers, grass. It means the rivers, the streams, the mountains and the hills. It means the earth itself. It means the visible heavens.
- **All of creation is suffering as the result of sin.** God said, cursed be the ground. Thorns and thistles, it shall bring forth. Weeds. Man shall have to earn his bread by the sweat of his brow. The animal kingdom is cursed as a result of man's sin. And the expectation of creation as we wait for the manifestation or revealing of the sons of God.

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

- **But because of Him who subjected it in hope;** God gave a promise and a hope to the creation at the very moment when He originally cursed it! As if God were saying to creation, I am cursing you because of the sin of man, but this is not always to be your condition. It is to be your condition until I deliver man. Then your deliverance will come also. We see here the complete difference between the biblical teaching and everything that man himself has ever thought or suggested. It is the exact opposite of all the hopeful, idealistic optimism that characterizes those who believe Evolution.
- **God created man for His own purpose.** The purpose was that God might have a meaningful loving relationship with His creation. That was God's purpose in creating us. Thus, He created us with a capacity of choice. We are not robots. We have a mind of our own. God has given us a will of our own. A capacity of choice. So that I can have a meaningful relationship with God. When we sing of our love for the Lord, we don't have to. Hopefully we are singing from our hearts. We're not just singing by rote, but from our heart we are expressing, I love you Lord. I lift my voice! That's why I was created, to come into this loving relationship with Him. If a man does not have a relationship with God, there is deep, down within him, this drive, this thirst for God.

**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.*

- **Creation itself is "in the bondage of corruption,"** which means that it cannot get rid of this element of decay and of corruption, which renders it ultimately futile, something which is not fulfilling its intended function. We see also a remarkable doctrine here. The fate of creation is incapable of being broken, with that of man. This is found only in the Bible. The fate of man, and the fate of the whole cosmos are impossible to separate! The one follows the other.
- **Creation is, as it is, because of the fall of man.** (**Gen 3:17-19**) *Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your*

*life. [18] Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field. [19] In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return."*

- **When Adam fell, whom God had appointed as lord of creation,** his lordship was turned to futility and made subject to the bondage of corruption. Because of his sin, Adam was not allowed to enjoy the paradise, which God had placed him. When he fell all that was under him fell with him causing creation to be subject to futility, which is in *the bondage of corruption*. We see then the unity between man and his surroundings, the creation. What happens to man happens to it! The negative has already occurred, but what the Apostle is about to say is that the positive is also in the plan of God! That is why the whole creation is “earnestly expecting, craning its neck, eagerly waiting for the revealing of the children of God! Is there a hallelujah to that?

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

- **Just like the pangs of childbirth, it is a painful process.** A kind of agony is involved. That, he says is the condition of the whole of creation at the present time. It is experiencing, the pangs of childbirth in an attempt to produce the better thing that I knows is coming to it.

***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 (placing as sons), the redemption of our body.***

- **We believers are already children of God.** Paul has reminded us of that. But while we are in this world we are indistinguishable as regarding external appearance and circumstances, for unbelievers. The adoption means the entering into the estate, the full status and position of the children, the sons of God!. Paul puts it , (***Rom 8:19***) *For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.* We are the sons of God now. But we have not yet been revealed as such. We will be like Jesus! When He comes again it will be visible to all! The same applies to us! The creation is waiting for the revealing, the unveiling of the sons of God. How wonderful it is that here in the midst of life with all its problems and difficulties, we can consider what we are going to be!
- **Looking forward to glorification!** But we must not stop at the resurrection. We must not only be raised, but we must also be glorified! We will be changed and glorified! Paul is emphasizing the changing, the glorification and all that is involved in it!
- **So, all of creation, we ourselves, groaning, waiting. Groaning and waiting, like the pain during childbirth!** Like that of pregnancy and the child that is about to be born. The birth pains. As I look at the world. The pain of the world. I'll tell you what, the whole thing as you go into labor, you know, how that as you get to timing the contractions and they get closer and closer and closer. The pain. And I look at the pain of the world and the tragedies of the world and it seems like they are getting closer and closer and closer. About ready to be delivered. We and all of creation are groaning *within ourselves eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.*
- **Paul the apostle, writing to the Corinthians, said, (*1Co 15:51-53*) Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— [52] in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. [53] For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.** We are waiting for that day when this corruption puts on incorruption and this mortal puts on immortality. I receive a new body. Paul said, we know that as long as we are living in these bodies, we are absent from the Lord. We would choose rather to be absent from these bodies that we might be present with the Lord. Paul said, we know that when this body is dissolved, that is when it goes back to dust. The place in the ground where it goes back to dust. We have a building of God. He calls this body a tent. He compares it with a building of God, not made with hands, that is eternal in the heavens.
- **I believe when Jesus said, in My Father's house are many mansions,** He was referring to the new bodies that we have. A building of God not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. So then he said we

who are in these bodies do groan. Here we have it again. Earnestly desiring to be free from this body. Not that I would be unembodied. I want to be clothed with that body which is from heaven. So that groaning and travailing. Because of the body, there's where my problems lie. Oh, how I long for that new body! That redeemed body that we shall have when our Lord comes! We will be changed! In a moment, in a twinkling of an eye. *For this corruption must put on incorruption, this mortal, immortality.*

**Rom 8:24** *For we were saved in this hope* (looking backward, faith in what Christ has done), **but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope** (looking forward with full assurance) **for what he sees?**

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

- **Here we are told, if you grasp this principle that you were saved in hope**, then wait for it with patience This is a positive exhortation, not merely a matter of negative resignation. We are awakened to the sad state of this world. We see evil increasing and know fully well that man can do nothing about it in an ultimate sense. We may want to be out of this world, sometimes even saying, why doesn't God take me home? But this is not what is meant by hoping for that which we do not see, because it is an entirely negative attitude. The believer is always to be positive, knowing our promised eternity with God that is ahead. He want to be with the Lord,. He wants to be clothed upon that mortality might be swallowed up of life. Although he may be having a very difficult time in this world, he is to press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus, looking with great anticipation to be in the presence of Him!. That should be the attitude of all believers, which is thoroughly taught in the New Testament.
- **Looking beyond this present world to the blessed hope of His appearing.** (*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. (Tit 2:13) looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ!*
- **We Christians are to hold on to this, especially in these dark and difficult and uncertain days.** This is not our world. I am a stranger here, heaven in my home! Our citizenship is in heaven, not here! We see here in these scriptures, the true Christian position! We see the way Paul, himself, lived in (*Php 1:23*) *For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better.* Whether he was to remain in this world to help the Philippians and others, or to depart to be with Christ, which is far better, and beyond that to the "blessed hope" of His appearing. We are saved into this realm of hope. We Christians are not to claim too little, nor to claim too much; but we are to understand our present position as it is taught in this great passage!
- **We eagerly wait for it with perseverance!** If the creation has an "eager expectation," surely the believer, a son of God, should have nothing less than that! Although the fulfillment of our redemption is still distant, we hope for it, persevering and trusting that God is faithful to His word and His promised glory is certain to become a reality!

## SUMMARY:

- **Vs. 14-17 – Sonship through the Spirit.** As sons of God, we are led by the Holy Spirit. We did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but we did receive the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry out, Abba Father!
- **We see the Spirit Himself bearing witness** with our spirit that He love us! That we are children of God! And if children, then heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together!
- **Vs. 18-25 – From suffering to glory!** Our present sufferings are not worthy to be compared with the glory that shall be revealed to us!
- **All creation is eagerly, craning its necks, for the revealing of the sons of God!** Then creation itself will also be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God!

- **We also having the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan within ourselves,** eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body!
- **We were saved in this hope! That part which we do not yet see,** we eagerly wait for it with perseverance!

***BREATHE ON ME, BREATH OF GOD*** – Edward Hatch – York College Concert Choir (1:56)

*Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life anew, that I may love what Thou dost love, and do what Thou wouldst do.*

*Breathe on me, Breath of God, until my heart is pure, until with Thee I will one will, to do and to endure.*

*Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am wholly Thine, till all this earthly part of me glows with Thy fire divine.*

*Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I never die, but live with Thee the perfect life of Thine eternity.*

**CLOSING PRAYER: Read and meditate over Romans Chapter 8:26-39!**