

ROMANS 8:12-25

****We have to remember that Paul is talking to the believer and not to the lost person. Paul is now trying to show how the Spirit of God can raise the believer's body from the dead. Also, the Holy Spirit can control the very members of the believer and bring victory in their life.**

Ephesians 2:1 - And you *hath he quickened*, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

Ephesians 2:5 - Even when we were dead in sins, *hath quickened us together with Christ*, (by grace ye are saved;)

Romans 8:12 - Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh.

1. Paul is saying we are not obligated to the flesh. What has the flesh ever done for us? We do not owe it anything.

***Why?** Because we have crucified the flesh by our identifying with Christ. We are now "in Christ".

Romans 6:6 - Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with *him*, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

2. The flesh would have dragged us down to the deepest and hottest place called hell, but the Holy Spirit of God has awakened our mortal bodies by making them alive again.

Galatians 5:24 - And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

1. Paul says there are two ways that we can choose between:

Romans 8:13 - For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

- a. One - is to live in the flesh, constantly being controlled by the flesh, which leads to a downward spiral and being lost.
- b. Second - is to live in the Spirit. This we can do through the Holy Spirit's help, to defeat the deeds of the flesh and put to death the evil practices seeking us through our bodies.

Galatians 2:20 - I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

2. Paul often includes words of warning to the believers - that there may be some people listening who have never been truly born again.

1. This verse is in reference to our sonship position that we have with God the Father. We are no longer children of the flesh, but sons of God.

Romans 8:14 - For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

2. Paul summarizes what he has been teaching. Only those with the Holy Spirit living within them are saved and we are being led by the Spirit - according to the Word of God given to the Body Church.

3. Paul writes about that "agape" love that abounds more and more in knowledge and in all judgments - that we apply the principle of discernment as adult sons of God and evaluate the details of life.

Philippians 1:9-10 - And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and *in* all judgment; Php. 1:10 That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ;

Romans 8:15 - For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

1. In these next several verses, Paul now puts the importance and emphasis on the sonship. Paul says that when we are saved - God, through the Spirit, adopts us into His family.
2. Paul says that we have received the Spirit of adoption; which by the word "adoption" is not like our modern day adoption. Paul is saying there is a placing of a son in a new position of adult sonship, being led by the Holy Spirit
*God has now equipped us to have spiritual discernment as a full adult and to show our maturity.
3. When we are saved, we are placed into God's family as a full son - a full partner with the Father and a full heir with Jesus Christ. When we realize the truth of our sonship, we say or "cry" out "Abba, Father" - rejoicing in our new position that we have in God's family.

Romans 8:16 - The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

1. When we are led by the Spirit, it makes clear our position in Christ - the dignity of who God has made us.
I Corinthians 15:10 - But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which *was bestowed* upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.
2. The Spirit Himself bears witness with the believer's spirit that he is a member of God's family and not under the law.
Galatians 5:17-18 - For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. Gal. 5:18 But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.
 - a. The flesh can do good things, but it can also be fooled by religious false teachings in Christendom. The Galatians were placing themselves back under the law, where sin gets its strength.
 - b. These people thought, by going back under the law, they could be perfected and please God.
3. Paul then reveals the new truth God had given him. The things he had been doing in the flesh would not impress God or get God's approval.
*We see here in this verse 16, the "feeling" for the witness of the Spirit of God and where our spirit shouts out "Thank you, Abba, Father" in rejoicing.
1. We also are joint-heirs with Christ - what belongs to Him, belongs to us. It seems to be dependent upon our suffering with Christ as a necessary condition to being glorified with Christ.

Romans 8:17 - And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with *him*, that we may be also glorified together.

Colossians 3:4 - When Christ, *who is* our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

2. As heirs, we eventually inherit His Father's estate and all the Father has is ours. We have not yet come to that possession or enjoyment, but being co-sufferers as Christians - we will be glorified with Christ.

II Thessalonians 1:10 - When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.

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

1. Paul says, after considering all that he had and all the suffering he had gone through because of his relationship with Christ and the Grace message given to him - his sufferings were nothing and unworthy to be compared to the blessings as a partner with Jesus Christ!

II Corinthians 4:17 - For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory;

2. Paul says that, after careful consideration of the facts, there is no comparison when we see what awaits us in our inheritance in glory.

*If we could only appreciate the glory that is to be ours, we could count the sufferings trivial compared to the excruciating pain of those martyrs before us. Our sufferings are as light afflictions.

1. Paul makes this bold statement mentioning about the whole creation as eagerly looking forward to the time

Romans 8:19 - For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.

when we will be revealed as the sons of God to a wondering world - when the Lord Jesus Christ returns to reign over the heavens and earth.

2. The world neither recognizes or appreciates us as "sons of God" right now. But, one day the whole world will.

1. Creation has endured undeserved suffering. Why is that? Because old Adam's sin dragged creation under

Romans 8:20-For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected *the same* in hope,

his curse. God put all of creation in subjection to the curse of man's sin.

- a. But creation's subjection is based on hope in the last part of the verse. Originally man was in harmony with God and placed in a perfect environment with a perfect relationship with God.
- b. But after man (Adam) sinned, this relationship was tainted. Man became a sinner and a rebel. So, God provided a less desirable environment, showing man's depraved nature.

Genesis 3:17 - And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed *is* the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat *of* it all the days of thy life;

2. One day creation will be freed with the freedom and glory of the children of God.

Romans 8:21 - Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

1. Creation looks back to the perfect conditions that existed in Eden. Then it surveys the havoc that was caused by the entrance of sin. But one day, creation will no longer have to deal with the effects of sin ("the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption") - sin and death.
2. The guarantee to this deliverance is Christ's work on the cross. Christ made the full atonement for man and all creation, but the fulfillment has not all been done yet.
3. Earth is under a curse and its only true deliverance is when man goes back to having a relationship with God.

Romans 8:22 - For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.

1. Creation, as a whole, is groaning together with unbelievers in this sin-cursed, imperfect world prior to our glorification.
**So why is creation waiting?* Paul says, that from the fall of man up to this present day, the change has not come yet. The change will happen only when the Dispensation of Grace Program has been completed.
Titus 2:13 - Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;
 2. We are expecting Jesus Christ to return at any time, and the answer to living in this present world is to look for Jesus to take us home one day.
 3. As we see this hope, we can understand that God has an eternal plan for us that is beyond this earthly life.
1. As we believers groan with nature's pain - the pain we experience in life that reveals the problem of sin,

Romans 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.

we have had the *firstfruits* of the Spirit to comfort us. The Spirit seals us "unto the day of redemption".

2. Believers are not exempt. Even though they have the *firstfruits* of the Spirit, they still groan for that day of glory.
Ephesians 1:13-14 - In whom ye also *trusted*, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Eph. 1:14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.
3. The Holy Spirit is God's pledge that He is going to keep us, take us up in the Rapture and we will receive our joint inheritance with Christ.
Philippians 3:20-21 - For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Php. 3:21 Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

Romans 8:24-25 - For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? Rom. 8:25 But if we hope for that we see not, *then* do we with patience wait for *it*.

1. Paul is not talking about being saved from sin and hell, but being saved from despair and depression over our infirmities and suffering.

*We are looking forward to a full and final deliverance from suffering and disease and death.

2. If we had already received these blessings to us, we would not be hoping for them. We only are hoping for what is in the future.

I John 3:2 - Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

3. Today, we live in a fallen, sinful and evil world that is under Adam's curse. Our glorification is not a fact yet, so we eagerly wait and hope for the redemption of our bodies.

Galatians 1:4 - Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father:

4. Our hope for deliverance from the presence of sin and all of its results is based on the promise of God. So, we eagerly wait for it with patience and perseverance.

Philippians 1:6 - Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform *it* until the day of Jesus Christ:

*We will wrap up Romans 8 next time - understanding how the Holy Spirit is our great helper in using prayer in our life and our weaknesses that we deal with in this world.