

JOINT HEIRS | ROMANS 8:16-19

- *Verses 16-17 included on Session 23*
- Verse 18 - For those who do suffer for Christ, it is doubtful that any could say their suffering surpassed what the Apostle Paul had already experienced by the time he wrote the book of Romans. See 2 Corinthians 11:23-28.
- Verse 19 - This beautiful statement tells us what to seek for: **the manifestation of the sons of God**. In this world we have either blessing or curses, but it all pales in comparison to **the manifestation of the sons of God**.

THE GROANING CREATION | ROMANS 8:20-22

- Verse 20
 - **Vanity** is *futility, emptiness, or fruitlessness*. This is what the **creature** (mankind) is **subject to**.
 - Because there is a **vanity** of existence, our goal should not be achievement of certain purposes but rather to fulfill the instruction of Colossians 3:17. Everything else will be meaningless.
- Verse 21 - Until this happens, the Kingdom of God has not been inaugurated.
- Verse 22 - The **creation groaneth** because it is under the curse. It is under the curse **for thy sake** (Gen. 3:17). How was it a benefit to Adam (and his descendants) to have the creation cursed? Perhaps so that he did not grow too comfortable with the blessings of creation, so that he would always long for more.

THE WORK OF THE SPIRIT | ROMANS 8:23-27

- Verse 23
 - **groan within ourselves**
 - Here Paul emphasizes **ourselves** and **we ourselves**, possibly a reference to the Jewish believers, who (more than anybody) had **the firstfruits of the Spirit** (compare Heb 6:4-5, see notes on those verses).
 - Recall that our proposition is that Romans was written to *Jewish believers* living in Rome, fully explaining the Age of Grace to them.
 - **waiting for the adoption**
 - In v. 15 the believers are told they have **the spirit of adoption**, whereas here the believers are **waiting for the adoption** (that is, the adoption itself, not the spirit). The time in which believers experience the full adoption is when they experience the full **redemption of our body**.
 - A Biblical believer should have a "doctrine of the body" which gives Biblical understanding of the body, including:
 - What happens to the body when the body and spirit are separated?
 - When is the body resurrected?
 - How should the living body be treated?
 - How should the deceased body be treated?
- Verse 24
 - More accurately, *in hope* rather than **by hope**. This phrase requires the context of v. 23. We are **waiting for the adoption...the redemption of our body** and this is the **hope** in which we were saved. That is, we were saved with this hope, the **redemption of our body**.
 - If the words **saved by hope** are taken out of context, a false theology is opposed to *saved by faith*, and **faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen** (Heb. 11:1).

- Verse 25
 - That is, *since we do not see it, we patiently wait.*
 - The word for **patience** is ὑπομονῆς [hupomones] and *hupo* is a prefix which means *under* or *subjugated to*, and *meno* is *to remain*.
 - Other *hupo* words in English are *hypodermic*, *hypothermal*, *hypocrite*, and *hypothesis*, etc., each having the idea of "underneath," or "subject to."
 - Therefore, because we do not have the **redemption of the body** we are subjugated to wait for it.
 - During the time of waiting we struggle with the Romans 7 dilemma, seeking victory over temptation.
- Verse 26
 - **Likewise the Spirit helpeth...**
 - This assurance must be taken in context. The **infirmities** (more literally, *weaknesses*) must be taken in context with the continuation of waiting for the full salvation (including body and spirit), not weaknesses of all kinds.
 - Note that the Spirit has a twofold role. In v. 16 He bears witness **that we are the children of God** and in v. 26 He **likewise...helpeth our infirmities**.
 - **we know not how we should pray**
 - The phrase, *be careful what you ask for* is related. As we suffer through the *strong spirit-weak body* reality, we don't really even know what we should ask for. Should we ask for strength? Victory over temptation? Removal from temptation? Wisdom? Patience?
 - Note: this is a reminder that in the Age of Grace, prayer has taken on a different role.
 - If we received **all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing**, (Matt. 21:22), then we would create a world of problems, since we **know not what we should pray for as we ought** (see the series *Praying in the Age of Grace*.)
 - When the Kingdom arrives, the Matthew 21:22 promise will once again be experienced, but that will be a time in which God's will is known **from the least to the greatest** (Heb. 8:11).
 - **The Spirit itself maketh intercessions** - Thus the importance of being in the Spirit rather than in the flesh.
- Verse 27
 - **He that searcheth the hearts** - The identity of **he that searcheth** is given in Acts 1:24 and 1 Thess. 2:4.
 - **knoweth what the mind of the Spirit is...**
 - God knows the **groanings that cannot be uttered** because the Spirit **maketh intercession** that is **according to the will of God**.
 - Do not take the **because** as causal or the sentence is illogical.
 - God also knows which of our prayers should be listened to!

