

ROMANS

Chapter 8:12-17 – Life and Glory

Chapter 8:18-25 – Suffering of this present time

The obligation resting on those who wish to share life through the spirit

- “So then”
 - The result that follows the truth we discussed last week
 - “But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you...”
 - That result is: ***We are debtors!***
 - Under obligation – because we have been made free from the law of sin and death

The obligation resting on those who wish to share life through the spirit

- “Not to the flesh”
 - Absolutely not!
 - It was the weakness of the flesh that enslaved us
- “for if you are living in accord with the flesh”
 - We don’t owe our lives to the flesh – it does nothing for us – and if we do live according to flesh “you are going to die” –spiritual and eternal death – because the body will of course die.
 - Life is conditional even for we who have been delivered

The obligation resting on those who wish to share life through the spirit

- “but if by the Spirit”
 - This is explained by what follows in verse 14
 - The Spirit’s lead
- “you are putting to death the deeds of the body”
 - The body of sin or under the control of sin (Col 3:5)
 - But the putting of death the deeds of the body is not something done once for all. It must be repeated again and again

- However, verse 13 must not be understood as if a Christian were under law as a means of justification. Remember 6:14
- These verses ought to correct the misinterpretation of verses 1-11 which treats the indwelling of the Holy Spirit as a transfusion of power that takes control of our lives and makes us do what we could not do ourselves. We are obligated to follow the Spirit's lead and we must make the choice to do so.

Confirmation of the Promise “you will live”

- “*Sons and daughters of God*”
 - We shall certainly live – we are children of God
- “led by the Spirit of God”
 - The Spirit does not take over a person’s life so that they lose their free will and are compelled to do the Spirit’s bidding against their will.
 - The Spirit leads, but we must follow

Proof of sonship

- “You have received a spirit of adoption as sons and daughters”
 - The confirmation or proof of sonship has two forms
 - A subjective proof – the inward confidence that we have, under the influence of the Holy Spirit that we are sons and daughters of God
 - An objective proof – the testimony of the Spirit Himself

Proof of sonship

- “For you have not received a spirit of slavery”
 - The Spirit does not enslave its followers. It LEADS them.
 - Not the same old spirit possessed under law as opposed to grace.
 - Not a spirit of bondage
- “leading to fear again”
 - The one baptized did not emerge from the terrors of the law only to be thrown back into them again

Proof of sonship

- “but you have received the spirit of adoption”
 - The Spirit produces in Christians the consciousness of being sons of God
 - Parallel passage Galatians 4:4-6
- “by which we cry out”
 - The Spirit of the Son influences us to cry out ‘Abba Father’
 - He teaches us to think of ourselves as God’s sons and therefore produces or inspires us to cry out

Proof of sonship

- “The Spirit testifies with our spirit”
 - The deciding witness is not some ‘inner voice’, imaginary and elusive, but the testimony of the Holy Spirit, given through apostles and prophets and recorded in scripture.
 - The Christian must test His ‘inner voice’ against that of the Holy Spirit - if they agree, then the Christian is led rightly – if not, then the Christian is deluded by His own spirit.

Great prospects of the Sons of God

- “and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ”
 - Being children we will surely live
 - We will inherit along with our elder brother
 - We **MUST** be led by the Spirit though

The sufferings of this present time

- “not worthy to be compared”
 - Our sufferings have no weight compared to the glory that will be ours
- “the eagerly awaiting creation”
 - Poetically personified subhuman animate and inanimate creation (Psalm 65:12, Psalm 98:8, Jeremiah 4:28)
- “for the revealing of the sons and daughters of God”
 - Sonship in this life is a shadow to the true sonship in the glory of God – a thing we continuously hope for

Explanations of the creation's intense interest in the destiny of the sons of God

- Creation is subjected to slavery and groans in anticipation of deliverance to the future glory of God
 - Birth pains to be followed by the birth of a new order of things (John 16:21-24)
 - This subjection of the creation was the plan of God – a result of sin which the Lord has planned to eradicate

Even Christians cry out for deliverance

- “having the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves”
 - The first installment of our inheritance, a shadow of the substance of our true, full inheritance. (Eph 1:14)
- “waiting eagerly for our adoption”
 - The time when we , as sons of God, actually enter into our inheritance - when we are revealed in glory
- “the redemption of our body”
 - The full and final liberation from the evils in this life

Explanation: The present standpoint with regard to a Christian's salvation

- 3 points
 - "In hope we have been saved"
 - The full realization of salvation – a matter of prospect rather than current possession
 - The implications of hope
 - The nature of hope implies an object in the unseen future as opposed to something already possessed
 - The practical impact
 - Since the consummation of salvation is something hoped for, we must persevere.

Next week

- Romans 8:26-39
- The Help of the Spirit