

ROMANS

THE GRACE OF GOD: A JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY IN THE BOOK OF ROMANS

Future Glory

• Romans 8 : 18 - 27 •

Week 15

DEVOTION

Many Christians have suffered tremendously for the sake of the Gospel, but the temporary sufferings in this world are “not worthy to be compared” to the glory that is to be revealed. That which is to come is eternal, the sufferings in this life are temporal. 2 Timothy 2:12 promises “if we suffer, we shall also reign with Him.” (See also Romans 8:17). Psalm 16:11 says “in your presence is fulness of joy; at your right hand there are pleasures for evermore.” It is foolish to trade eternal glory for the “fleeting pleasures of sin” - may we prepare our hearts to “seek His face,” “set on our minds on things above” and “lay up [our] treasures in heaven.”

Because of our sin, creation was subjected to futility, and groans. Nothing is as it should be. Animals spend most of their time hunting and being hunted, and often go through extraordinary hardships to keep the one commandment God gave them, to “be fruitful and multiply” [watch the movie March of the Penguins as an example]. Groaning and pains are seen throughout creation, yet unseen, but perceived by faith, a tremendous hope grows day by day - that as the coming of the Lord Jesus draws near, creation will soon be set free from its bondage to corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

Isaiah 11:6-9 “The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.”

We are said to have the “firstfruits of the Spirit” and we also groan, waiting for the redemption of our body. The Holy Spirit was given at the feast of harvest / firstfruits (Pentecost) and gives promise and assurance of things to come. Having received this deposit/pledge from God, we are called to patiently endure the sufferings that come in accordance with His will, a testimony that “the Kingdom of God is at hand.” The Spirit helps us, interceding for us according to the will of God because we don't know what to pray for as we should. How marvelous is God's grace to us and His eternal purposes for us! May He 'stamp eternity on our eyes' so that we may understand His will and redeem the time.

2 Corinthians 4:15 - For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God.

Monday

Read Romans 5:9-10, John 3:17, Romans 10:9-10, 13

Romans 8:24 says “for we are saved by hope” (KJV). In Romans 5:9-10 we read that we shall be saved from wrath through Him (see also John 3:17), and that we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, and that, being reconciled, “we shall be saved by His life.” So we are saved by hope, saved by His life, and saved from wrath through Him. Read ahead to Romans 10:9-10, 13. What else do we learn in Romans that we are saved by/through?

Tuesday

Read Ephesians 2:5,8; 2 Timothy 1:9, Titus 3:5, Acts 4:12

Yesterday we focused on scriptures from Romans that reveal the way of salvation (by Jesus' life and through Him, by hope, through calling upon Him, through believing in Him and through confession of our belief in Him). Today read the above noted scriptures. What else does the Scripture say we are saved by? What does it say we are not saved by? Is there any other way of salvation outside of the Lord Jesus?

Wednesday

Read Romans 8:26-27

Romans 8 has more references to the Holy Spirit than any other chapter of the new testament. Last week, in the first half of the chapter, we learned that there is no condemnation for those that walk in the Spirit, that the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, that we cannot please God without being in the Spirit, that if we don't have the Spirit we do not belong to Christ, that the Spirit is life and dwells in - and makes alive the bodies otherwise dead in sin of - those that belong to Christ, that through the Spirit we have power to put to death the deeds of the body (and must do so to live), that those lead by the Spirit of God are the sons of God and that the Spirit bears witness to our spirit that we are the children of God and heirs of God. Today, re-read Romans 8:26-27 - what else do we learn about the Holy Spirit from this chapter?

Thursday

Read Ephesians 6:18

My friend is a missionary in southeast Asia. He grew up in India as a child of missionaries. A friend of the family in Canada had the family's picture on her fridge, and one day while cleaning noticed that the picture was crooked. When she touched the picture to straighten it, immediately the Holy Spirit came over her and she started interceding for my friend. It was such a profoundly divine moment that she recorded the date and time in her journal. Many years later they found out that it was at the exact time my friend was healed from malaria, from which he had almost died. In Romans 8:26-27 we learn that the Holy Spirit intercedes for us according to the will of God, and He also moves us to intercede for each other. Read Ephesians 6:18 and take some time today to pray for others in the Spirit as He leads you.

Friday

Read Revelation 21:1-8, 1 Corinthians 2:9, 1 Corinthians 15:58, 2 Peter 3:11

This present world will perish, and the sufferings in it will come to an end, but the glory of the new heaven and new earth that God has promised will be everlasting. God calls us to "lay up our treasures in heaven" and to join Him in His redemptive work of bringing people out of darkness into light - reconciling them to Himself through His Son, Jesus Christ - our labour is not in vain in the Lord! As written in a beloved hymn:

Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in His wonderful face,
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim,
In the light of His glory and grace.

Today ponder the question of 2 Peter 3:11. Ask the Holy Spirit what areas of your life He wants to be more Christ-like in preparation for eternity.

2 Peter 3:11

Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in all holy conversation and godliness