

Romans 8:18-35

Introduction.

A. So far in Romans.

1. Universal condemnation (1:18 – 3:20).
2. Justification and its results (3:21 – 5:21).
3. The relationship of the Christian to sin (6:1 – 7:25).
4. Life in the Spirit (8:1-17).

B. Romans 8 divided into three parts.

1. Life in the Spirit (1 – 17).
2. Future glory (18 – 30).
3. More than conquerors (31 – 39).

I. Today's suffering and tomorrow's glory (18 - 25).

A. Includes all of creation in both suffering and glory.

1. God gave man dominion over the earth (Ge. 1: 28).
2. Man surrendered that dominion at the Fall (Ge. 3: 17f).
(cf. Mt. 4:8-9).
3. Man's relationship to God affects nature (Ps. 107: 33ff).
4. Our glorification glorifies nature.

B. The pains of childbirth (22).

1. Just as childbirth brings a new life into being, our glorification will bring new life to creation.
2. Believers also have an expectation – as part of creation, our bodies will also be glorified.

C. First fruits.

1. In the Bible.

- a. Children, animals, crops belong to God.
- b. Trust in God's future provision.

2. Applications in the Bible.

- a. Israel (Jer. 2:3).
- b. Christ the first fruit of resurrection (1 Co. 15:20).
- c. The Church (Ja. 1:18).

3. The Holy Spirit in the believer (23).

- a. Redemption of the body is the second fruit.
- b. It is our hope (Titus 2:13).
- c. We wait patiently for the fulfillment of our hope.

II. Help for the present (26 – 27).

A. While we are waiting.

B. In our weakness, we do not know how to pray.

C. Our second intercessor.

- 1. Christ in heaven.
- 2. The Holy Spirit in us.

D. Union of our spirits with the Holy Spirit.

- 1. Interprets our unspoken needs.
- 2. The Father knows the mind of the Spirit (same language).
- 3. Responds according to God's will.

III. Significance for the believer (28 – 39).

A. The outcome of our waiting – our glorification (28 – 30).

1. All things are turned to good.
 - a. Done by God.
 - b. True of every circumstance.
 - c. Applies particularly to the believer.
 - i. He loves God.
 - ii. He is called by God to his purpose.
2. Our destiny is to be conformed to the image of Christ (1 Jn.3: 2-3).
 - a. Pre-determined – all choices have unavoidable results.
 - b. God calls, justifies, and glorifies.
 - c. Often is painful.
 - d. Caution: don't use these verses as false comfort.

B. Secure in Christ (31-39).

1. No opposition can overcome us (31-32).
 - a. God gave the ultimate gift – his son.
 - b. Through his son, he gives us all other graces.
2. No accuser can overthrow us (33).
 - a. God himself chose us.
 - b. God himself justifies us.
3. No condemner can overturn the effects of Christ's work (34).
 - a. His death satisfied the penalty of sin.
 - b. His resurrection broke the power of sin.
 - c. He himself intercedes for us from the place of honor.

4. Nothing can separate us from Christ's love 35 – 39).

a. The scope of his love in context.

i. For the believer.

ii. Saving love.

iii. Eternal and unchanging.

b. In adversity, we can still be sure of his love.

c. In him we are more than conquerors.

d. The list is universal – we cannot be separated from God.

IV. No Christian has the right to be a pessimist.

A. We are saved for eternity.

B. Our glorification will be complete.

C. We have an intercessor for today.

D. We cannot be separated from God.