

"The Doctrine of Glorification"

Romans 8:14-8:39

Part 3

Introduction: Tonight, in our study of Romans we step back into the Doctrine of Glorification. This doctrine is focused upon the glorious future of the believer. We have looked at one point of our glorious future and that is our eternal inheritance.

Notice Romans 8:15

Here in this verse we looked at how we have been "adopted" which means "son placed" into the family of God. We are literally born again when we accept Jesus Christ as Savior and then the Holy Spirit places us as full-grown mature sons in the family.

Notice Romans 8:16

The Holy Spirit bears witness with our spirit through conviction, correction and discipline that we are the children of God. Last week I explained the significance of the title "children of God" in this verse. It has the idea that we are children of God in nature. This means that because we are now born into the family of God and He is our Father we then have His nature within us. Just as we also bear the nature of our early parents, so we also bear the nature of our Heavenly Father. This is the Divine nature within us. This nature comes from the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Notice Romans 8:17a

The word "IF" here is not a doubt. The word "IF" could also be translated "SINCE". The idea is that "SINCE" we are the children of God we are then the heirs of God and joint heirs with Jesus Christ.

Now the idea here is so important. In the Old Testament under the Jewish economy the eldest son received a double portion of the inheritance.

Deuteronomy 21:15-17

¹⁵ If a man have two wives, one beloved, and another hated, and they have born him children, both the beloved and the hated; and if the firstborn son be hers that was hated:

¹⁶ Then it shall be, when he maketh his sons to inherit that which he hath, that he may not make the son of the beloved firstborn before the son of the hated, which is indeed the firstborn:

¹⁷ *But he shall acknowledge the son of the hated for the firstborn, by giving him a double portion of all that he hath: for he is the beginning of his strength; the right of the firstborn is his.*

In the family of God however the inheritance is different. Paul has in mind here Roman adoption and Roman inheritance. Roman adoption made all children equal and all children heirs. So even if a child was adopted from another family, he or she became an heir of the family who adopted them. In the same way we are JOINT HEIRS with Jesus Christ. Let me show you what the writer of Hebrews wrote concerning Jesus.

Hebrews 1:1-2

God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

² *Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;*

Jesus will inherit all things and since we are children of God and joint heirs with Him, we too will inherit ALL THINGS. This is difficult for us to imagine because when someone leaves an inheritance to their family today it is always given out in different portions. Someone gets a house, someone gets property, someone gets money and so on. But with God it is not like this. We are all given all things.

It would be like a wealthy man leaving his entire estate to all of his children and in the will, he writes, "It all belongs to all of you". Here on earth that would not work. The sin nature in the children would desire to have things divided up so they could claim their portion. But in heaven we will not have the sin nature and so it will work perfectly fine. There will not be any portions. In other words, you will not get more than me and I will not get more than you. What belongs to me will belong to you and what belongs to you will belong to me.

Now before we move on in our text let me refresh your memory concerning one of Paul's purposes behind writing this chapter. In Romans 8:1 we were told, "**There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus**". One of the purposes of this chapter is to show us how this profound statement can be true. Paul lists many reasons as to why this statement is true.

1. **He frees us from the law of sin and death.** - Romans 8:2-3
2. **He fulfills the Law IN us.** - Romans 8:4
3. **He changes us from the inside out.** - Romans 8:5-11
4. **He empowers us to have victory over the flesh.** - Romans 8:12-13
5. **He confirms our position in the family of God.** - Romans 8:14-16

6. The Spirit Guarantees our Glorification.

This is what we are looking into this evening.

I. The Explanation of Glorification

Part 3

Romans 8:14-27

Notice Romans 8:17 again.

Now we need to look closely at the last part of this verse. To understand what Paul is saying here we need to understand the suffering which he is speaking of. This is not what we would call a "general suffering". In other words, this is not suffering that is a result of the curse. The "general suffering" that is in the world is a result of the curse.

Genesis 3:16-19

¹⁶ Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.

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;

¹⁸ Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field;

¹⁹ In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

The curse effects everyone in this world and so everyone suffers as a result of the curse. This is for man's sake to turn him toward God. The curse prohibits man from finding satisfaction and contentment in this world.

Notice Romans 8:17 again.

When we notice closely what the verse says we see that the suffering spoken of here is WITH CHRIST. The suffering which Paul speaks of here is the suffering that comes Jesus Christ.

Notice the words of an unnamed teacher:

*"This truth about our suffering **with Christ** is very important to understand. Suffering in general (as occurs in lives of believers and unbelievers alike) is not what Paul is referring, but it is specifically suffering **with Christ** that shows we are His children, and which is preparing us for our future glory with Him. There can and often is suffering in our life that is not **with Him**. If His life is in us (i.e., we are genuine believers), He lives His life through us, and we are guaranteed to be persecuted in one form or another."*

Now when we think of persecution, we think of physical persecution which brings suffering. If the suffering does not come from physical persecution, then we have the tendency to dismiss it as something other than suffering with Christ. But suffering with Christ is not limited to physical suffering but it can also be emotional. Some of the most difficult suffering that you will go through as a believer is suffering from a spiritual attack in the mind or suffering that comes from taking a stand against sin when many others refuse to stand with you. It is the emotional pain that is so difficult to endure. It keeps you awake at night, it takes away your appetite, it affects your health. This too is suffering with Jesus Christ. Let me show you the suffering of Jesus **before** the cross.

Matthew 26:36-38

³⁶ *Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder.*

³⁷ *And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be **sorrowful and very heavy**.*

³⁸ *Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding **sorrowful**, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me.*

Notice the words of Poole on verse 37:

"The words in the Greek are expressive of the greatest sorrow imaginable."

The word "heavy" here means "to experience great anguish or depression". As Jesus faced the cross, he experienced great depression knowing what awaited Him in just a few hours. Then on top of that there was the Satanic battle.

Matthew 26:39, 42, 44

³⁹ *And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.*

⁴² *He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done.*

⁴⁴ *And he left them, and went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words.*

Jesus came under three separate attacks by Satan as Satan attempted to pull Him away from the will of His Father. Now notice the results.

Luke 22:44

⁴⁴ *And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.*

This is pressure! Jesus was under so much pressure that His blood was forced through the pores of His skin. I show you all of this to help you to see that suffering is not always the result of physical persecution. Sometimes the attacks are spiritual in the sense that they are emotionally painful.

Notice Romans 8:17 again.

When we do suffer, we do not suffer alone. This verse tells us that we suffer with Him. Now what we need to know concerning suffering is that it is a BIRTHMARK. It is not a question about IF we will suffer but it is a question of WHEN we will suffer. Suffering is a part of every believer's life and it is a birthmark which proves we are the children of God.

Philippians 1:29

²⁹ *For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake;*

There is also another view of suffering to be seen here. It would be the suffering that is experienced as we mortify the deeds of the body. To live for Jesus is to live a life of sacrifice.

Matthew 16:24

²⁴ *Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.*

To mortify the deeds of the body/flesh is to deny the flesh of its lusts and desires and so that means there will be individual suffering. This can also come from others around us as they do not understand our commitment. This suffering can come as ridicule, mockery, or mistreatment.

But no matter how difficult the suffering we have guarantee of eternal glorification.

Notice Romans 8:17 again.

The glory of the believer spoken of here is a reference to our future eternal state.

1 Corinthians 2:9

⁹ *But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.*

1 Corinthians 13:10-12

¹⁰ *But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.*

¹¹ *When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.*

¹² *For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.*

Colossians 3:4

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

1 Corinthians 15:49

⁴⁹ *And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.*

There is another verse which we need to look at and, in this verse, we see that the suffering which we go through in this life is connected with the glory we will receive in eternity.

2 Corinthians 4:17

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

Paul has in mind here weighing on a scale the sufferings of this life and the glory we will receive in heaven. The glory we will receive in heaven will far out weigh the sufferings and one reason why is because the sufferings here in this life contribute to our glory in eternity. Notice the words of Morgan on this verse:

"Glory is tied to suffering, and God will accomplish in us a glory far heavier than any affliction we have suffered here. Affliction is not something to be endured in order to reach glory. It is the very process which creates the glory. Through travail comes birth."

Notice Romans 8:18

Here Paul is making the same statement. The sufferings of this present time/this life we are now living, are not worthy to be compared with the glory. The word "worthy" means the sufferings are not even worth throwing upon the scale to weigh them against the glory that awaits us. This glory will be REVEALED in us at the end of the Tribulation when we return with Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 1:5-10

⁵ *Which is a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer:*

⁶ *Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you;*

⁷ *And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,*

⁸ *In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:*

⁹ *Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;*

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.*

Conclusion:

As we face the sufferings of this life, we have much to look forward to in eternity. But what about now?

2 Corinthians 1:3-5

³ *Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort;*

⁴ *Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.*

⁵ *For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ.*