



7/18/25

*On this week's Chosen and Cherished podcast, we talked about the good news and the bad news... We need to know the gravity of the bad news or we won't understand the magnitude of the good news of the gospel... and how it impacts every aspect of our lives. If you'd like to listen to the podcast, here's the link! <https://summitpoint.org/chosen-and-cherished/>*

*Romans 8:12-17 ~*

*So far in this chapter, I've learned the wonderful truth that, because I am IN CHRIST JESUS and not IN THE FLESH, God will never condemn me. I have been set free from condemnation and given life... and now, I live by faith with the power of the Holy Spirit giving me the strength to recognize the horrific nature of the flesh AND to put to death the deeds of the flesh. I have no power to do any of this in my own strength because my own strength IS the flesh.*

*This brings me to today's passage...*

*Vs. 12-14 ~ "So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors." I appreciate that Paul said, "WE are debtors." Even though he was an apostle and had planted so many churches and went through such huge tribulation in his life on earth, he said, "We are debtors." He knew that no amount of suffering on this earth could compare with the eternal suffering that will take place for those who don't put their faith in Jesus. So he said, "In light of all God has done for us through His Son's sacrifice, and by the power of the Holy Spirit working in our lives... we are indebted." To whom? "NOT to the flesh."*

*The flesh is the whole reason we needed Jesus to die for us. So it would be crazy for us to live as debtors to the flesh, serving the cravings of the flesh. "If you live according to the flesh you will die." The flesh is completely opposed to God. This is not a matter of physical life and death, which is temporary. This is a matter of spiritual life and death, which is eternal. Jesus didn't come so that I would be free to live for the flesh, but so that I would be free FROM the flesh. I am indebted to HIM!!! I am indebted to the Holy Spirit who dwells in me!!! I am indebted to the Father who sent Jesus to be my replacement payment!!!*

*Don't be indebted to the flesh and die... "But if by the Spirit, you put to death the deeds of the body (the flesh), you will live." This is eternal life. Why can no one be saved without Jesus? Because no one can stop sinning without Jesus. We can't clean ourselves up to come to Jesus. We have to come broken and helpless and weak... and HE saves us from ourselves. And then the Holy Spirit supernaturally comes to dwell in us and seal us with the Father's seal declaring that we belong to Him. As long we live on this earth, the Holy Spirit continues to enlighten us so that we understand more and more how destructive the works of the flesh are. And He leads us and gives us the power to overcome the works of flesh. How awful would it be to recognize my hopelessness and not be able to do anything about it? The Holy Spirit helps me to do something about it... to overcome it.*

*My job is NOT to fix myself. My job is to follow the Holy Spirit as He leads me in His paths of steadfast love and faithfulness that He promises for ALL who put their faith in Christ... even when those paths lead me through the valley of the shadow of death. The Holy Spirit never leaves me to handle overcoming my flesh on my own because He knows I can't handle it on my own. I did nothing to earn my salvation, and I can do nothing to keep my salvation. Following the Holy Spirit's lead is not motivated from a heart of fear, but a heart of gratitude.*

*O Lord, please help me to grasp that! I know that there are some people who don't struggle with the shame of their sin, but completely get that Your mercy covers their sin. I am not one of them. I am always aware that I do not measure up... and I FEEL like I SHOULD. But that's not what Your word says. Every time I struggle with shame over failing You once again... for the zillionth time... please help me praise You for Your mercy and grace... for Jesus... for the power of the Holy Spirit at work in my life. Help me to hold fast to the truth of Your word and throw out any thought that doesn't align with Your word. Let me not be guided by my feelings, but by Your truth.*

*Vs. 15-17 ~ Here's the truth I can live by... "For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, 'Abba! Father!'" When I was living IN THE FLESH, I was a slave to fear... fear of punishment... fear of not being enough. I am no longer a slave to fear. Galatians 4 tells me that God sent Jesus to redeem and adopt me. Galatians 4:6-7 says, "And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!'" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God."*

*This is MASSIVE. I always wondered why in the Old Testament they didn't refer to God as Father. They referred to Him in the most personal way they could, with awe and reverence, by His personal name, "Yahweh." I can see that God had a plan to be more than personal with us in passages like Psalm 103:13, "As a father shows compassion to his children, so YAHWEH shows compassion to those who worship Him." It's like He was dropping hints... "I'm gonna be more than personal with you. I'm gonna be your Dad." Why didn't He call Himself "Father" until the New Testament? Galatians 4:4-5 makes it clear. Jesus had to come FIRST! "And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!'" So you are*

*no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God." Once Jesus came, we would be adopted and made His child! My kids don't call their dad by his personal name, "Tim." That's too impersonal. They call him "Dad." It's a deeper, more personal relationship so it needs a deeper, more personal name.*

*It is by the Holy Spirit in me that I KNOW that I'm God's daughter. He bears witness to my soul that I can call God, "Abba! Father! Dad!" And not only that, He has made me an heir of the Father's, and a fellow heir with Jesus. That's mind blowing. I'm given an inheritance with JESUS!!! That is how generous God is.*

*If I could leave off the rest of vs. 17, I would. I read it and I want to find the loophole. It says we're an heir with God and a fellow heir with Christ, "provided we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him." What? That sounds harsh. I like the child part and the heir part, but the suffering part? But let me pay close attention to what it says. First, the transliteration from the Greek says I am INDEED an heir of God's and joint heir with Jesus, if INDEED I suffer with Him SO THAT I may also be glorified with Him. This is not about losing my salvation if I don't suffer... It's about having the mindset that says, "This world is not my home. Whatever I need to walk through on this earth is worth it because I will spend eternity with God."*

*I always think about my pregnancies when I consider this verse. I INDEED became Megan and Elissa's mom as I INDEED suffered through the pains of pregnancy (even to the point that I almost died), SO THAT I could celebrate their lives and be their mom. The suffering I went through was totally worth it. How much more is any suffering I go through as a follower of Christ worth it when I have the promise of the glory that's coming. I hold tight to what vs. 18 says, "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us." I am His daughter, His heir, saved through the blood of Christ, sealed with His Spirit, rescued from slavery, with the glory of heaven before me. Is there anything I would go through on this earth that would be too painful to take away the joy of what I have with the Lord? No way. O Lord, please help me to keep this in perspective when I go through suffering. And let me never forget the suffering Jesus went through for me so that my suffering would only be temporary. Praise Your name.*