

ROMANS: PART 44

JULY 14, 1996

The Pattern Of Sonship or Family Tears Romans 8:18-25

Summary of Romans 8

1. We have been made new (the new man) -- yet we remain imperfect (the flesh). Rom 6.
2. We want to do God's law, yet fail to keep it as we ought. We cry out for deliverance. Rom 7.
3. But by the Spirit we are in Christ Jesus & therefore not condemned. Rom 8:1-4
4. But by the Spirit we subdue our fallen flesh. Rom 8:5-13.
5. But by the Spirit we are adopted into God's family, of which He assures us. 8:13-17.
6. Now by the firstfruits of the Spirit we are guaranteed of our final inheritance. Rom 8:18-25.

Suffering And Then Glory Are The Pattern For God's Children. Romans 8:17-19.

1. **Suffering & Glory are inseparable. Vs 17.**
 - ◆ Remember Christ's pattern of life! The same is true for us: Jn 15:20; I Pet 5:10.
2. **Suffering & Glory cannot be compared. Vs 18 (Cf II Cor 4: 17).**
 - ◆ Not worthy = no comparison. The glory so far exceeds the pain, it's not worth comparing
3. **Suffering & Glory occur at two different times. Vs 18.**
 - ◆ Sufferings (human weakness, the flesh, persecution) are in this present time.
 - ◆ Glory (God's unutterable splendor, eternity, holiness, etc) will be revealed (αποκαλυπτω)
 - ◆ We experience the *in between*, the *now but not yet*. We're 1/2 saved (but not 1/2 lost).
4. **Suffering & Glory is the pattern for both Christians & creation. Vs 19.**
 - ◆ Nature shared the curse & now shares the pain of the Fall of man. Gen 3:17ff.
 - ◆ Nature waits in eager expectation. (αποκαραδοκια Lit "the head erect away")
 - ◆ Nature waits with its head raised, eye fixed on the horizon for the coming glory.

A Description of The Sufferings And Glory Of God's Creation. Romans 8:20-22.

1. **Creation was subjected to frustration. Vs 20.**
 - ◆ The cause was God, as a result of Man's disobedience. Gen 3:17ff; Rev 22:3.
 - ◆ The effect was *thorns & thistles*, painful *toil*, *death* & the process that leads to death.
 - ◆ The analysis: creation now experiences *futility*: frustration & emptiness. Cf. Eccles 1:2.
2. **Creation will be liberated. Vs 21.**
 - ◆ From the *slavery* (or tyranny) of *decay*: birth/growth ⇒ decline/death/decomposition
 - ◆ Unto the *freedom* (or liberation) of the glory: decay/death ⇒ glory/incorruption.
 - ◆ OT: Ps 102:25ff; Isa 11:6ff; 35:1ff; 65:17ff.
 - ◆ NT: Mt 19:28; Acts 3:19,21; Eph 1:10; Col 1:20; Rev 21,22
3. **Creation's pain & future glory is analogous to the labor & delivery of a baby. Vs 22**
 - ◆ στεναζω = A deep groaning. Cf II Cor 5:3,4,17.
 - ◆ Future history is likened to childbirth: Mt 24:8; Mk 13:8; Jn 16:20.

A Description of The Sufferings And Glory Of God's Children. Romans 8:23-25.

1. **We have the firstfruits of the Spirit -- not a perfectly received glory. Vs 23a.**
 - ◆ Cf Pentecost = the celebration of the *first* harvest. (also II Cor 1:22; 5:5; Eph 1:4).
2. **We groan inwardly. Vs 23b.**
 - ◆ Our fragile body & our fallen flesh brings us deep pain. Cf. Rom 7:17,20
3. **We wait eagerly for our adoption, the redemption of our bodies. Vs 23c.**
 - ◆ We are adopted (Rom 8:15,16), yet a richer revelation of sonship awaits us.
 - ◆ We are redeemed in spirit (Rom 3:24), yet will be redeemed even in our physical body.
4. **We were saved (aorist = past) in the (as yet unseen) hope of glory. Vs 24.**
5. **We eagerly wait for glory patiently. Vs 25.**
 - ◆ We wait not so eagerly that we lose our patience. God cannot be hurried.
 - ◆ We wait not so patiently that we become apathetic or pessimistic. He keeps His promise