

Romans Session 108

The incomparable Gain of Glory 2

The Heirs of Glory 2

Romans 8:16-18 (KJV)

¹⁶ *The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:*

¹⁷ *And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.*

¹⁸ *For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.*

We have been talking about our adoption into the family of God which in turn makes us heirs with Jesus Christ and of God.

“and if children, heirs also, (8:17)

The emphasis in Romans 8:17-18, on believers' glory is closely related to their adoption as God's children.

As is clear from the preceding context, the **if** in verse 17 does not carry the idea of possibility or doubt but of reality and causality, and might better translated, “because” in other words, because all believers have the leading of the Holy Spirit (v 14) and His witness (v 15) that they are indeed **children** of God, and they are thereby **heirs also**.

The heavenly angels not only serve God directly but also serve believers, because they are God's children and heirs;

Hebrews 1:13-14 (NASB) 13 But to which of the angels has He ever said, "SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, UNTIL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES A FOOTSTOOL FOR YOUR FEET"? 14 Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?

Also, Paul speaks of who has qualified us to be heirs;

Colossians 1:12 (NASB) 12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light.

Paul's teaching here and in the previous chapter about adoption seems to adhere more to Roman Law than it does Jewish Law.

We might expect this, because Paul was writing to believers in Rome. And although many of them were doubtless Jews, if their families had lived there for several generations, they would be as familiar with the Roman custom and Law as the Jewish.

In Jewish tradition, the eldest son normally received a double portion of his father's inheritance.

In the Roman society, on the other hand, although a father had the prerogative of giving more to the one child than to the others, normally all children received equal shares.

And under Roman law, inherited possessions enjoyed more protections than those that were bought or worked for. Perhaps reflecting those Roman customs and laws, Paul's emphasis in this passage is on the equality of God's children and the security of their adoption.

Paul told the Galatians;

Galatians 3:29 (KJV)

²⁹ *And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.*

This is Paul referring to the spiritual heritage, citing Abraham,

Romans 4:11 (KJV)

¹¹ And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had yet being uncircumcised: that he might be the father of all them that believe, though they be not circumcised; that righteousness might be imputed unto them also:

Again, citing Abraham as the human archetype of the adopted child and heir of God.

So as children we also became heirs of the Glory of God!!!

THE SOURCE OF GLORY

And if children, then heirs; heirs of God,

The source of the believer's incomparable glory is **God**, their heavenly Father, who has adopted them as His own children and **heirs**.

Paul assured the Colossian Christians;

Colossians 3:24 (KJV)

²⁴ Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.

This inheritance is only God's to give, and He sovereignly bestows it, without exception, on those who become His children and heirs through faith in His divine Son, Jesus Christ.

In His description of the sheep and goat's judgment in the last days, Jesus reveals the astounding truth that our inheritance with Him was ordained by God in eternity past.

Matthew 25:34 (KJV)

³⁴ Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

God does not adopt His children as an afterthought but according to His predetermined plan of redemption, which began before the foundation of the world.

The value of our inheritance is determined by the worth of the one who bequeaths it and the inheritance of Christians is from the Creator, Sustainer, and Owner of the world.

God is not only the source of our inheritance but is Himself our inheritance.

Of all the good things in the universe, the most precious is the Creator of the universe Himself.

The Psalmist declared;

Psalm 73:25 (NASB)

²⁵ Whom have I in heaven but You? And besides You, I desire nothing on earth.

Jeremiah wrote;

Lamentations 3:24 (NASB)

²⁴ "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "Therefore I have hope in Him."

In his vision on the Island of Patmos, John;

Revelation 21:3 (NASB)

³ *And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them,*

The greatest blessing God's children will have in heaven will be the eternal presence of their God.

He is the source of all their glory.

THE EXTENT OF GLORY

"and joint-heirs with Christ;"

Many of us are heirs of those who have very little to bequeath in earthly possessions. And our human inheritance will amount to little, perhaps nothing.

But just as God's resources are limitless, so our spiritual inheritance is limitless, because, as His **fellow heirs**, we share in everything that the true Son of God, Jesus **Christ**, inherits.

Paul exulted,

Ephesians 1:3 (NASB)

³ *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,*

Ephesians 1:11 (NASB)

¹¹ *also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will,*

God the Father has appointed Jesus Christ the;

Hebrews 1:2 (NASB)

² *"appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world."*

And because we are fellow **heirs** with Him, we are destined to receive all that He receives!

In the arithmetic of earth, if each heir receives an equal share of an inheritance, each gets only a certain fraction of the whole amount.

But heaven is not under such limits, and every adopted child of God will receive the full inheritance with the Son. Everything that **Christ** receives by divine right, we will receive by divine grace.

The parable of the laborers in Matt 20:10-16 illustrates this graciousness, showing that all who serve Christ will receive the same eternal reward, irrespective of difference in their service.

Believers, one day, will enter the eternal joy of their Master;

Matthew 25:21 (NASB)

²¹ *"His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'*

Who for the sake of that Joy;

Hebrews 12:2 (NASB)

² *“endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

Believers will sit on the heavenly throne with Christ and rule there with Him;

Revelation 3:21 (NASB)

²¹ *“He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.*

Revelation 20:4 (NASB)

⁴ *Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.*

Luke 22:30 (NASB)

³⁰ *that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.*

And these folks will forever bear the image of their Savior;

1 Corinthians 15:49 (NASB)

⁴⁹ *Just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we will also bear the image of the heavenly.*

1 John 3:2 (NASB)

² *Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.*

In the infinite grace of our Lord,

2 Corinthians 8:9 (NASB)

⁹ *For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich.*

In His great high priestly prayer Jesus spoke to His Father of the incredible and staggering truth that everyone who believes in Him will be one with Him and will share His full glory;

John 17:22 (NASB)

²² *“The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one;*

We will not intrude on Christ’s prerogatives, because, in His gracious will, He Himself bestows His glory on us and asks His Father to confirm that endowment.

It is not that believers will become gods, as some cults teach, but that we will receive, by our joint inheritance with Christ, all the blessings and grandeur that God has.

Titus 3:7 (NASB)

⁷ so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Jesus Christ is;

Hebrews 9:15b (NASB)

¹⁵ the mediator of a new covenant, so that, since a death has taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were committed under the first covenant, those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

We will talk more of this going forward