

Romans Session 109

If Children, heirs also of God's Glory 3

Romans 8:17-25 (NASB)

¹⁷ and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.

¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

¹⁹ For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God.

²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope

²¹ that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

²² For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.

²³ And not only this, but also, we ourselves, having the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.

²⁴ For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he already sees?

²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it.

We have been talking about the heirs of Glory, if Sons then heirs; and God is the qualifier of the Sons to receive Glory.

Colossians 1:12 (NASB)

¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light.

We have talked about the source of the Glory;

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,

It was God's purpose to give to us glory with Himself and with His Son.

Then we talked about the extent of His glory;

It is limitless as is God, He being the source of it. We have all blessings in heavenly places.

We will bear the image of the heavenly as we have the earthly.

The Christian who is not eagerly looking for Christ's return and living his life in accordance with Christ's will is too tied to this earth.

According to God's Word, only those believers who have an eternal purpose and perspective, who are truly heavenly-minded, can be of service to Him on earth, because they are freed from the earthly desires and motivations that hinder the obedience of many of His children.

Faithful believers are fruitful believers, and they know that their true citizenship is in heaven and that their inheritance is a promise of God, who cannot lie and who is always faithful to fulfill His promises.

Philippians 3:20 (NASB)

²⁰For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;

When Paul was caught up into the third heaven, he beheld sights and heard utterances that were beyond human description.

2 Corinthians 12:2-4 (NASB)

²I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago—whether in the body I do not know, or out of the body I do not know, God knows—such a man was caught up to the third heaven.

³And I know how such a man—whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, God knows—

⁴was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which a man is not permitted to speak.

Even the inspired apostle was unable to depict the grandeur, majesty, and glory of heaven.

Yet every believer someday not only will behold and comprehend those divine wonders but will share fully in them.

1 John 3:3 (NASB)

³ And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

The hope and expectation of sharing in God's own glory should motivate every believer to dedicated himself to living purely while he is still on earth.

Only the holy life is fully usable by God, and only a holy life is rightly prepared to receive the inheritance of the Lord.

One day everything on earth will perish and disappear, because the whole earth is defiled and corrupted.

By a great and marvelous contrast, however, one day every believer will obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for (him, her)

1 Peter 1:3-5 (NASB)

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

⁴ to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,

⁵ who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Our present earthly life as believers is merely an introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand;

Our ultimate hope and joy are

Romans 5:1-2 (NASB)

¹ Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

² through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God.

Because of his constant confidence in that ultimate inheritance, Paul could say;

Philippians 4:12 (NASB)

¹² I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need.

It was also in the light of our ultimate divine inheritance that Jesu admonished,

Matthew 6:19-21 (NASB)

¹⁹ *"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.*

²⁰ *"But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal;*

²¹ *for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

THE PROOF OF GOD'S GLORY

Romans 8:17a (NASB)

¹⁷ *if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.*

As in the beginning of the verse the word if does not here connote possibility but actuality and is better rendered, "because" or "inasmuch."

Paul is declaring that, strange as it seems to the earthly mind, the present proof of the believer's ultimate glory comes through suffering on his Lord's behalf.

Because **we suffer with Him**, we know that we will **also be glorified with Him**.

Jesus closed the Beatitudes on the same note when He gave a double promise of blessing for those who are persecuted for righteousness sake, that is, for His sake;

Matthew 5:10-12 (NASB)

¹⁰ *"Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

¹¹ *"Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me.*

¹² *"Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*

Because the present world system is under the reign of Satan, the world despises God and the people of God.

It is therefore inevitable that whether persecution comes in the form of mere verbal abuse at one extreme or as a martyrdom at the other extreme, no believer is exempt. From the possibility of paying a price for his faith.

When we suffer mockery, scorn, ridicule, or any other form of persecution because of our relationship to Jesus Christ, we can take that affliction as divine proof we truly belong to Christ and that our hope of heavenly glory is not in vain, and that ultimately, we will **also be glorified with Him.**

Many of God's promises are not what we think of as positive, Jesus promised,

Matthew 10:24-25 (NASB)

²⁴ *"A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a slave above his master.*

²⁵ *"It is enough for the disciple that he become like his teacher, and the slave like his master. If they have called the head of the house Bee/zebu/, how much more will they malign the members of his household!"*

Paul promised that;

2 Timothy 3:12 (NASB)

¹² *Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.*

But the promise is;

2 Timothy 2:11 (NASB)

¹¹ *It is a trustworthy statement: For if we died with Him, we will also live with Him;*

Peter implies the same promise;

1 Peter 5:10 (NASB)

¹⁰ *After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you.*

Suffering is an integral part of the process of spiritual maturity, and Peter assumes that every true believer will undergo some degree of suffering for the Lord's sake.

Those who reign with Christ in the life to come will enjoy the rewards for their suffering for Him during their life on earth.

Paul declares with confidence and joy,

2 Corinthians 4:8-11 (NASB)

⁸ we are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing;

⁹ persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed;

¹⁰ always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.

¹¹ For we who live are constantly being delivered over to death/or Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh

Paul was willing to suffer for the sake of his fellow believers and for the sake of those who needed to believe, but his greatest motivation for suffering was the glory his suffering brought to God.

2 Corinthians 4:15 (NASB)

¹⁵ For all things are/or your sakes, so that the grace which is spreading to more and more people may cause the giving of thanks to abound to the glory of God.

Also, he was willing to suffer for his own sake, because he knew that his travail for the sake of Christ would accrue to his own benefit.

2 Corinthians 4:16-17 (NASB)

¹⁶ Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.

¹⁷ For momentary, light affliction is producing/or us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison,

The more a believer suffers in this life for the sake of his Lord, the greater will be his capacity for glory in heaven.

Jesus made this relationship clear in Matt 20,

Matthew 20:21-23 (NASB)

²¹ And He said to her, "What do you wish?" She *said to Him, "Command that in Your kingdom these two sons of mine may sit one on Your right and one on Your left."

²² But Jesus answered, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?" They *said to Him, "We are able."

²³ He *said to them, "My cup you shall drink; but to sit on My right and on My left, this is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by My Father."

In explaining this, he said that elevation in the coming kingdom was related to the experiencing of the depths of the cup of suffering through humiliation here and now.

The spiritual quality of our earthly life will, in some divinely determined way, affect the quality of our heavenly life.

I should also say that since the ultimate destiny of believers is to glorify God, it seems certain that our heavenly rewards and glory in essence will be capacities for glorifying Him.

The suffering in this life creates reactions that reflect the genuine condition of the soul. God allows suffering to drive the believer to dependence on Him as evidence of their true salvation.

Suffering because of our faith not only gives evidence that we belong to God and are destined for heaven but also is a type of preparation for heaven.

And we will take this on further in our next study.