

QUESTION #5 FROM ROMANS PART 2

WHAT THEN DOES GOD HAVE IN STORE FOR ME?

INTRO: Question #5 What is our future?

- The purpose of Paul's writing in this section is to do 2 main things.
 - Encourage, and comfort the believer.
 - And to bring them an assurance of their eternal salvation.
- In fact, the theme of the entire 8th chapter is this. To give encouragement, an assurance and certainty regarding our ultimate, complete and fully realized salvation.
- I want to inform you that over the next few weeks, we are going to dig into the 3-fold truth which we find here,
- Inheritance, Suffering, Glorification, which are to produce in the believer a God given, unshakable assurance and desire for their glorious future.
- Why not discover, dig down into the truths that the Spirit led Paul to write to the churches?

READ ROM. 8:12-18

- Now as we read these verses, did you notice 5 proofs, assurances, of being a child of God. For what Paul writes is for the child of God.
 - 1) They are, by the Spirit, putting to death the deeds of the flesh. VS 13
 - 2) They are led by the Spirit of God. VS. 14
 - 3) They have received the Spirit of adoption and cry, "Abba, Father." Vs. 15.
 - 4) The Spirit bears witness with their spirits that they are sons. Vs. 16
 - 5) They suffer with Christ. Vs. 17
- This realization gives us evidence of being children of God.

THE WHOLE GOSPEL. VS.17

- Rome, like all the churches in the first century was a suffering church. Suffering was the atmosphere of Christian life.
- Notice, Paul includes in his Gospel, suffering.
- Part of Paul's encouragement is to prepare them for suffering.
- I am just going to make a comment about the mention of suffering in this verse, just to take notice of its inclusion.
- Paul joins and rightly so, reward, glory and suffering.
- Suffering is part of the gospel, is it in mine? How many preachers and teachers avoid it.
- Come to Jesus and all will be smooth.
- By avoiding this, teachers or false teachers do themselves and their hearers no good, but actually harm.

- Some of these false teachers even preach against suffering saying that it comes from the devil and if you have enough faith, you can repel any type of suffering and negative influence in your comfortable life.
- How different is Paul's gospel to the self-centered, weak gospel of comfort and ease being peddled today.
- The true gospel prepares its followers for suffering, tells them the truth,
 - Jn. 16:33
- but also promises, absolutely guarantees the comfort of a glorious future, the assurance of a abundant inheritance.

INHERITANCE:

- Let's look a bit further into inheritance.
- Roman model.
- Here the testator may change his mind, may disinherit us. His promise is changeable, fickle.
- The amount of the inheritance may diminish, and in fact go bust.
- Inflation may eat it up or taxes take it. But the heavenly inheritance cannot diminish.
- And our Testator is God Himself, whom the scriptures tell us; He cannot lie, He is unchangeable, always the same,
 - Heb. 6:13-18.
 - Tit. 1:1-2.
 - Heaven and earth may pass away, but not My word
 - Lk. 12:32; "Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.
- In verse 17 the inheritor is pictured in 2 ways.
 - 1) An Heir of God
 - 2) A Joint heir with Christ.
- We are not just heirs, but heirs of God and not just heirs of God but joint heirs with the Christ, God the Son.
 - Heb. 1:2 informs us that Jesus is the Heir of all things! has in these last days spoken to us by *His* Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things,
 - And Gal. 3:16 informs us of the same thing;" Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "And to your Seed," who is Christ.
- What a generous God, what an absolute miracle that God would share His inheritance with beings such as us.
- But one must be united in Christ to be in line for the inheritance.
- As we learned in Rom. 5, We who were once in Adam, dead, but now by the redemptive power of the Holy Spirit have been translated into Christ.
- In Adam we had inherited all the consequences of his fallen life, but now in Christ we have inherited all the consequences of Christ's risen life.

- We have been crucified in Christ, we died in Him, buried with Him, risen with Him, and now we are seated with him in heavenly places.
- This is all true because of the relationship we now hold with Christ, of those who have been united with Christ by the Spirit.
- All the promises of God in Him are yes and amen, but only In Him.
- We are, by grace, positioned into a standing, by being placed into the life of Christ, our Elder Brother. He leads the great train of His brethren.
- We are now by adoption in the lineage, in the life of Jesus Christ, being in Him is everything.
- **Rom. 5:10** this is why we are saved by His life; God has translated and united the believer into the life of Christ. He is the Ark of our eternal salvation. I am saved and forever safe in Him.
- And being in Him, if Christ inherits, I, we inherit, we partake of our Elder Brother's rewards.
 - Isa. 8, Behold Me and the children which Thou has given me.
 - Rom. 8:29, that He may be the Firstborn among many brethren.
- You see being in Christ is everything.

OUR INHERITANCE IS FUTURE BUT YET MORE REAL THAN SIGHT:

- This is a subject we seldom think of, perhaps I'm too earthly minded.
- It is seen often in scripture but somehow, we seem to miss it...
- Let's look at some of Paul's teachings on this in other scriptures.
 - **Acts 20: 32, 26:17, Eph. 1:11, 15-18, Col. 1:12, 3:24, Tit. 3:7, Heb. 1:4, 1 Peter 1:3-5, 13.**
- We can see from these verses that the early Christians thought often of eternity and their coming inheritance or reward.
- In our lives this thought, this anticipation and focus of mind and affections should be much greater.
- We should not be so consumed with this life, or the blessings of this life, but on that which is to come.
- Future inheritance was the great motivation to live faithful lives we see in our Patriarchs.
 - **Heb. 11:8-10, 13-16, 23, 27**
- Looking off to this inheritance is the hallmark of the Christian man and woman, those whose eye and hearts have been trained to consider eternity.

CONCLUSION: