

ROMANS 8:18-23 OUR RESURRECTION, OUR GLORY, CREATIONS GLORY

INTRO:

- We've been talking about the coming glory and glorification of the Children of God. (17)-- Paul's reckoning about suffering.
- The honor of the body. Moses buried by God, his body disputed over.
- Now looking into this morning:
- Paul begins to add emphasis on why he can say the present time suffering (17) is not worthy to be compared to our coming glory. (18)
- He begins to display in words some of the coming glory which even flows to creation.
- He seems to say that this coming glory we are to be endowed with is so great that even creation eagerly waits for man's fulfillment.
- This glory is so great that creation will have the spill over and be liberated from its bondage.
- This great glory, our coming in heritage as joint heirs with Jesus, shall be revealed in us is and be of such magnitude that.
 - All the suffering of this present life are not worthy to be compared with it. (18)
 - It is of such magnitude as to be of interest to the whole of creation. (19)
 - And of such magnitude that our highest enjoyments do not satisfy us causing us to groan earnestly for our full possession of this glory. (23)
- Also, we must come to realize that "this present time," is of a settled duration. The times or lengths, the pains, suffering, disappointments have a limit, but in contrast "the glory which shall be revealed," it has no limits, knows no bounds.
 - 1 Cor. 2:9
- Before we dig into these verses let me remind us that, the more we know of heaven and our coming glory, the more we know of the life to come with Jesus, the more we are transformed by the renewing of our minds regarding our destiny,
- The stronger we will become in our fight of faith, for this is the victory, even our faith that overcomes the world. 1 JN. 5:4
- Breathing a bit of heaven now will make us stronger to overcome trials, pains, loss and hardships.

READ ROM. 8:17-25

CREATIONS CURSE; CREATIONS GLORY:

- Man's rebellion, that is Adam's, brought not the curse upon mankind only, but also on creation. Vs. 20:
- Adam's sin brought creation down with him.
- Creation had not sinned, it at that time was in perfect submission to its call from God.

- But because of the rebellion of the man Adam, creation was subjected to vanity, futility.
- **SUBJECTED:** Made subordinate, put in subjection, to be in subjection.
 - First time, LK. 2:51; He came to Nazareth and was subject to them.
- **FUTILITY:** Idle, resultless, futile, aimless, emptiness, hallow, void of results. Something that does not measure up to that for which it was intended or created for. (20)
- The original intent and purpose of creation was interfered with due to sin and the resulting curse, resulting in decay and perishing, it cannot glorify God as originally created or intended.
- And so the flower fades and the flower of the grass withers.
- **Not of its own will** but by the decree of Almighty God.
- Nature was pleased to fulfill that for which it was created, but now due to man's rebellion and sin it has remained in failure to fulfill its intended and original design.
- Now being contrary to those qualities and powers originally bestowed upon it at creation.
- Creations' curse came through the rebellion of the man, now creations liberty from the bondage of corruption comes also through man.
 - See **Gen. 1:28, 3:17**.
- For you see creation was made subject, bound or made a captive to vanity and futility, not willingly, but by Him who subjected it. That is God. (20)

GLORY & LIBERTY OF CREATION:

- It is not only the Christian who is to be delivered from the bondage of corruption, but all creation itself also.
- Now we are told here in vs. 19; that all creation has an earnest expectation which is a very interesting word.
- **EARNEST EXPECTATION:** (apo kara dokia) Away – the head- to watch.
- Basically, meaning a watching with the head erect, and neck outstretched, on tip toe. A waiting in suspense. Looking off from other things.
- Also in God's great mercy, when He had subjected creation to this corruption and bondage He put within its heart a hope. (20)
- Somehow creation has a hope, which is the source of this "earnest expectation," God put it there,
- And creation shall be delivered from this corruption into the liberty of the glory of the children of God. (vs. 21)
 - Vs. 21 the NASB reads; 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.
- Paul leaves us no doubt when this release, this liberty will be given to creation;
- When the sons of God are revealed at Christ's second coming and our bodily resurrection is complete,

- The termination of creations groaning, travailing, due to the curse, futility and vanity will be dependent on the adoption of God's children, that is the redemption of our body at the second coming. (23)
- This is creations hope. It somehow possesses a type of pre-knowledge and thus a longing for which it groans for, yet in hope.
- In these verses Paul has no problem freely personifying creation.
 - **Isa. 55:12**, 13. Ps. 98:7-9, 1 Chron. 16:32, 33.

MAN'S GLORIFICATION: OUR RESURRECTION:

- Our glorification is bound up with the second coming of Christ in glory and our bodily resurrection.
- So also creations deliverance is bound up in our coming to glory.
- At the coming of Christ there will be an instant merging, a revelation of the joining of the glory of the Father, with the glory of the Son, and of the liberty of the glory of the children of God.
 - 1 Cor. 15: 51-56
- A trinity of revelation of God's glory.
- This glorification of the children of God will happen at the same time and coincide with the final act of the Father in exaltation and glorification of His Son coming in glory.
- The glorification of the believer is the completion of our salvation.
 - so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation. (Heb. 9:28)
- This second coming is called by Paul the believer's great hope. **Titus, 2:13:**
- Our glorification is all tied up with Christ, no Christ, no glory.
- As our deliverance and resurrection is completely tied up and dependent on the coming of Christ in His glory, similarly creations liberty and deliverance from bondage is tied up with our coming into Christ's glory. (VS. 20-22)
- Thus, creation eagerly awaits on extended neck and tip toes the manifestation, the revealing of the sons of God.
- So, we see, both we ourselves as well as creation is looking for this event.
- As we look eagerly for the return of Christ, looking off, longing for our Saviors return, so creation looks off with the hope of its redemption from its bondage.
- Man restored, creation restored.
- When we think of the unspeakable, unfathomable glory that shall be given us at the resurrection and our glorification, what will the glorified and liberated new creation be like? new colors.
- In the end all will be restored, the curse will be dealt with and God's righteousness will cover the earth.
- As Isaac Watts said in his famous Christmas hymn, "Joy to the World," how far will man and creation be made new and glorious, "far as the curse is found."