

ROMANS 8:17-23 PART 2

REVIEW: READ ROM. 8:18-25

- We have been looking into this great day, this great deliverance and fulfillment.
- And we must also remember it is known as the "Great and Terrible day of the Lord." (Acts 2:20)
- It will be a day as declared in Mt. 25 where we are not only lifted by Christ, but where Jesus the just Judge will separate the sheep from the goats. 31-34
- Vs:21 explains why creation has hope; it also will be delivered from bondage unto glory.
- Notice the contrast between "bondage of corruption, and the "liberty of the glory." (vs. 21)
- Vs. 23; "the first fruits of the Spirit."
- This does not mean that we have only a piece of the Holy Spirit, but God has chosen to limit His expression in us, yet He has gifted us the ability to experience a down payment of the fullness of all that the Spirit is.
- Consider Moses in the cleft of the rock, God only allowed Moses to experience a portion, he could not of lived in a greater experience, for flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God. (1 Cor. 15:50)
- What we enjoy of the Spirit now is a pledge of the fulness of the Spirit to be experienced later. Here we know in part, but then we shall be know even as we are known. Fully.

MAN'S GLORIFICATION: OUR RESURRECTION: VS. 23

- Our glorification is bound up with the second coming of Christ in glory and our bodily resurrection.
- This second coming is called by Paul the believer's great hope. **Titus, 2:13:**
- So also, creation's 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, and the glorifying of the Son, and of the liberty of the glorification of the children of God.
- 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.
- It will also include the revelation of the glory of Christ who has been resident in us since the new birth, but uncomprehend by us.
 - Rom. 8:11 The Spirit that raise Christ from the dead dwells in us.
 - Eph. 3:19, 20; being filled with all the fullness of God.
- This revelation of glory that will flood us, fill us is beyond our ability to understand or comprehend now.
- From the moment of our new birth God Himself has been resident in us by the Holy Spirit the third Person of the trinity, yet how dull have we been?
- 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, 1 Petr. 1:5)
- Our glorification is all tied up with Christ, no Christ, no glory.
 - 2 Thess. 1:10
- The great Physician shall appear with His recovered millions, and in the presence of an assembled universe will present them to the Father, and His glory will be revealed to the universe in our salvation.
- This will be the greatest display of Christ's glorious perfections, and in such a light as they never were displayed by any other of His works.
- Think of it, raising the dead, joining in glory, placed into sonship.
- The world may think little of us now, we may be disposed and rejected like our Master, but in that day the whole universe will glorify God in us.
- Lev. 25 seems to make an allusion to this day by installing the day of jubilee, the blowing of trumpets signaling the freeing of slaves and those in debt, and liberation of captives.
 - 1 Thess. 4:16-17: For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive, who remain, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.
- **Psalm 126 1-3** David mentions the joy of the returning captives after 70 years of exile and captivity.
- It is a picture of the joy and celebration that took place as they returned, but it is a faint reflection of the celebration that will be on the day of our final redemption. "the Lord has done great things for us."
- The early church though having received the first fruits of the Spirit, longed for a greater day to come.
- They longed for the day of full inheritance, of full salvation.
- We must know that the gift of the first fruits were not given to content or satisfy us, but cause us to long for more, something greater to come to us.
- Even as Israel was to long for the unbelievable and ever extravagant fruit of Canaan and not settle for the first fruits, but hunger and reach forward to the full harvest. (Num. 13)
- Even so now we should groan within ourselves eagerly awaiting and longing for not just deliverance from our present times troubles but more so for our adoption. VS 23
- Remember, the glory to be revealed at the resurrection of our bodies at the time of Christ's return, is not to be looked at as a solitary event.
- But rather as the culmination of a series of events that have led up to this point.
- The bible informs us that Christ must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet, and the last enemy being death.

- This great event, our adoption, the redemption of our body, began for us before we were saved, for we are taught that it all began in God's infinite "foreknowing and will."
 - **Rom. 8:29-30.**
- Redemption of our bodies and our glorification is the final step to our full salvation.
 - 1 Peter 1:4, 5, to an inheritance ^[a]incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, ⁵ who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.
 - Eph. 1:13-14; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴ who^[a] is the ^[b]guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.
- In the end all will be restored, the curse will be dealt with and God's righteousness will cover the earth.
 - Hab. 2:14; For the earth will be filled, With the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, As the waters cover the sea.
- This is part of the great message Peter preached to Israel in Acts 3:21.
- This groaning is the groaning not just for this corruption to put on incorruption, or to be freed from all earth's trials and strains, but for the reception of the fullness of our inheritance, to share Christ's glory.
- As our resurrection full inheritance is completely tied up and dependent on the coming of Christ in His glory, similarly creation's liberty and deliverance from bondage is tied up with our coming into Christ's glory. (VS. 20-22)
- Thus, creation eagerly awaits with extended neck and on tip toes the manifestation, the revealing of the sons of God.
- So, we see, both we ourselves as well as creation are 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.
- The question for us is, "how far will this deliverance this glory extend?" 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."
- Will I give myself to it?