

I. Eternal Future - Romans 8:12-13

1. Contrast between life in the flesh and life in the Spirit (**verse 12**)
 - therefore our obligation is to the Spirit, not the flesh
- Rea -we live in the flesh but our obligation is to the Spirit
2. Obligation - in debt - this is a moral obligation
- Rea 3. **Verse 13** explains what he is talking about - “for is you”
 - A. The end of living to the flesh is “death” - future death at the end of time
 - God’s final judgment
 - B. You will live if you put to death the flesh
- Rea -sorry that sounds like a present recommendation
 - die to yourself (Luke 9:23) “daily”
 - note he says “the misdeeds of the body”
4. He answers the question - “how?” do I do that - by the Spirit
- Rea -in Galatians it says “walk in the Spirit and you will not fulfill the lust of the flesh”
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
 1. There is, then, a continual dying - to the flesh - daily
 2. Romans 6:1ff tells us that we were buried “into Christ” - presumably (here) into His Spirit - the Spirit of Christ
 3. The good news! - you don’t have to live to the flesh

II. Eternal Inheritance - Romans 8:14-18

1. Those “led by the Spirit” (**verse 14**)
 - are able to put to death the flesh
- Rea -a sure mark that you are children of God is that you are “led” by His Spirit - just to claim that you are “saved” does not make you saved. Even if you are on the church roles.
2. You are sons, not slaves (**verse 15**)
- Rea -note they had already “received” it
 - slaves live in fear
- Rea -sons live in love and adoption
3. Now we call God “Father” (**verse 16**)
- Rea -as did Jesus
- Rea -the idea of verse 15 is a contrast in our status or identity - who you “are” is very important. You are a child of the king.
4. How do we know we are His - the Spirit tells us - “testifies” - witnesses
5. Now he tells what that means (**verse 17**)
- Rea -if you are children, then you are heirs - and co-heirs with Christ
6. That means we go through many sufferings
- Rea -so... sons, heirs and sufferers
7. Present sufferings vs future glory (**verse 18**)
- Rea -compares and contrasts future costs and benefits
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
 1. Discuss inheritance - and what that means for us

- discuss inheritance in the Old Testament promised land - book of Joshua
- 2. Your status should change your view of yourself - does it?
- 3. We are “important” not because of what we have done, but because of who we belong to

III. Creation Restored - Romans 8:19-22

- Rea 1. The idea of “suffering” changes Paul’s direction of speech and thought (verse 19)
 - he speaks now of eternal (future) truths
- 2. The “creation” is the created order - this cosmos/ world
- 3. The creation “waits”
 - waits expectantly
- 4. The creation “groans”
- 5. Frustration (**verse 20**)
 - this creation suffered alongside of mankind
- Rea -creation was cursed in the garden, alongside of Adam and Eve
- 6. “Hope” because God will set it free (**verse 21**)
 - Rea -but not now... later
 - Rea -everything that man touches is infected (like the Corona virus infects)
- 7. Future “freedom” and “glory”
 - Rea -“glory” is beauty
- 8. The creation has been “groaning” (**verse 22**)
 - Rea -the analogy is clear/ unclear:
 - A. Clear in that pain comes before glory - in childbirth
 - B. Unclear in that the creation is currently “groaning”
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
 - 1. New heaven and new earth spoken of in Revelation 21
 - 2. Sin’s effect “spreads” - the path of sin is downhill
 - 3. The entire earth is “cursed” - now it brings forth thorns and weeds

IV. Humanity Restored - Romans 8:23-25

- 1. We groan on the inside (**verse 23**)
 - A. We groan as we wait
 - B. Wait for the adoption of sonship... which is the “redemption” of the body
 - C. We are children, now we wait
- Rea 2. The Spirit within teaches us (daily) that we were made for more - that is what we groan for - we know that something is terribly out of sync - “there must be more to life”
- 3. Body redemption
 - bodies set free from corruption
- Rea -1 Corinthians 15 teaches that our bodies are doomed to corruption
- 4. We hope for all this (**verse 24**)
 - we hope for redemption to come
 - in that hope we are saved
 - one does not hope for that which he already has
- Rea -hope stretches out across the years to a future reality - like looking across the Jordan river (of death) - “on Jordan’s stormy banks I stand and cast a wishful eye”
- Rea 5. We see it, we hope for it and by that hope we are saved - we are saved by faith

6. Seeing it we patiently wait for it (**verse 25**)
-even while in difficult circumstances

Rea **Ideas and Questions:**

1. If you have “hope” of getting better (or of things being better) you can endure hardships
2. Salvation will be fulfilled - in the future
3. We received salvation:
 - when we were saved (past)
 - as we are “saved” from ourselves (present)
 - as something to look forward to (future)All three are true - all at the same time
4. We conceive of a better world - and we groan for it
5. “It will be worth it all, when we see Jesus...”

Charles Ray - SS Lesson for April 19, 2020