

Romans 8:18-28

- Victory over Sin:
 - Romans 6 – the CHOICE – do not continue in SIN
 - Romans 7 – the BATTLE – we still struggle with SIN
 - Romans 8 – the VICTORY – we overcome SIN by the power of the SPIRIT!
- Our Debt...
 - We have no DEBT to the FLESH – it has done NOTHING to help us...
 - Rather our DEBT is to God – to live according to the SPIRIT...
 - Because only then do we have the POWER to be able to overcome our SINFUL nature [flesh]!
- Our Identity...
 - As we live in the SPIRIT – we will be LED by the SPIRIT...
 - And have a change of IDENTITY – we are NO longer SLAVES [employees] who FEAR...
 - We are adopted as His CHILDREN – and have the right to cry out ABBA [papa] when we struggle...
 - The Holy Spirit in us bearing witness with our Spirit – that we are the CHILDREN of God...
 - And since we are CHILDREN – we become coheirs with Jesus Christ...
 - So long as we SUFFER with Him now – knowing we will one day be GLORIFIED together!
- **1ST – HOPE IN SUFFERING... vs. 18-25**
 - 1st – The Comparison... vs. 18
 - Suffering...
 - Therefore – those who are in the SPIRIT have an incredible INHERITANCE [co-heir]
 - But we also KNOW that we will have to SUFFER [like Christ] before we receive it...
 - So the question is HOW do we ENDURE the battle with our FLESH...
 - In answer to that question – Paul is going to give us TWO things [our hope and help]
 - Present time...
 - **For I consider that the sufferings of this present time!**
 - FIRST – Paul compared our current SUFFERING with our future GLORY...
 - CONSIDERED [λογίζομαι] – a familiar word that means to COUNT...
 - Paul put the WEIGHT of his current SUFFERINGS [πάθημα] on a scale...
 - And he had SUFFERED more than most could image!
 - Recall that while Paul is writing this letter to Rome on his THIRD missionary journey...
 - He had just been chased out of Ephesus with a RIOT – **Acts 20:1**
 - One of the most difficult moments in the ministry of Paul...
 - NOT just difficult – Paul called that experience the sentence of DEATH – **II Corinthians 1:8**
 - **We should NOT be surprised by BOTH battles within and without...**
 - **The CONSTANT war between our FLESH and SPIRIT to control our mind – Galatians 5:17**
 - **And CONTINUOUS trials that never seem to have an END...**
 - **But we are NOT alone in our struggles – they have always PART of the Christian walk!**
 - **John 16:33 – “In the world you will have tribulation.”**
 - Future Glory...
 - **Are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us!**
 - But as Paul COUNTED [λογίζομαι] his current SUFFERING...
 - Compared to the GLORY that is going to be [passive] REVEALED [ἀποκαλύπτω]
 - MOMENTARY suffering – compared to ETERNITY in heaven...

- He realized there was NO comparison!
- **II Corinthians 4:17** – “Our light affliction which is but for a moment - is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.”
- I was talking to Hallel the other day – she was NOT enjoying school [torture]
- But I explained to her that although it was NOT pleasant – it had a PURPOSE...
- And what she needed to do was focus on the PRIZE that came at the end [free time]
- We all know what it means to SUFFER at a job – that we would rather NOT do...
- But we ENDURE knowing there is a PRIZE that waits at the END [salary]
- In the same way our current SUFFERING has a purpose...
- If this would could satisfy us – we would NOT look forward to ETERNITY...
- But suffering reminds us that we were created for something greater."
- Even more so we realize that our current SUFFERINGS are worth the REWARD...
- We are NOT earning a temporary salary – we will receive an everlasting inheritance!
- 2nd – The Creation... vs. 19-22
 - The Fall... vs. 19-20
 - For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.
 - The creation was subjected to futility - not willingly but because of Him who subjected it in hope!
 - We are NOT alone in having to WAIT for the GLORY that is to come...
 - All of CREATION is also eagerly WAITING with earnest EXPECTATION...
 - Earnest EXPECTATION [ἀποκαραδοκία] – to stretch out the neck to look for something...
 - They also want to see who will be REVEALED [ἀποκάλυψις] as CHILDREN of God...
 - Because ALL of CREATION was subjected [passive] to the CURSE [ματαιότης]
 - NOT by choice – but [ἀλλά] through God who also gave them HOPE [ἐλπίς]
 - When God created the world – it was PERFECT – **Genesis 1:31**
 - There was NO sin – there was NO death – everything was VERY good...
 - But when Adam and Eve sinned – they were NOT the only ones to DIE – **Genesis 3:17**
 - ALL of creation was also CURSED – death now reigns over EVERYTHING...
 - Which might seem UNFAIR – because CREATION did nothing wrong...
 - But their DEATH helps reminds us that we are looking for NEW life!
 - Plants die – animals die – death is everywhere we look...
 - It is a constant reminder this life is NOT permanent – it does NOT last...
 - Creation is the constant reminder that there must be a better HOPE!
 - Delivered... vs. 21
 - Because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption.
 - Into the glorious liberty of the children of God!
 - Why is CREATION waiting to for the CHILDREN of God to be revealed...
 - Because they will ALSO be set [future-passive] FREE [ἐλευθερώω]
 - No longer in BONDAGE [δουλεία] to the CURSE that corrupted them [φθορά]
 - They will have the same glorious FREEDOM the CHILDREN of God will have!
 - After the Great White Throne judgment...
 - God will create a new HEAVEN [universe] – and EARTH – **Revelation 21:1**
 - He will restore the world back to the way it was before the FALL!
 - **Revelation 21:4** – “There shall be no more death - nor sorrow - nor crying. There shall be no more pain for the former things have passed away.”
 - New Life... vs. 22
 - For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now!

- For we SEE [εἶδω] what the whole of creation [present] GROANS [συστενάζω]
 - Like a woman who is in the pain of LABOR [συνωδίνω]
 - The picture is intentional – there is INTENSE suffering at the moment...
 - But it will ultimately bring about NEW life – and JOY!
 - Mothers understand this very intimately...
 - Month of struggling with a pregnancy – constant trips to the bathroom – swollen feet...
 - Only to then go through INTENSE pain as the moment comes close...
 - But the REWARD at the end – far outweighs the STRUGGLES!
 - We are NOT alone in our STRUGGLE – and the need to WAIT for our HOPE...
 - All of creation around us is there to REMIND us we are NOT home yet...
 - Every time we see DEATH – when we lose someone we LOVE...
 - We remember this life is NOT the point – it is just part of the JOURNEY!
- 3rd – The Hope... vs. 23-25
- Firstfruits... vs. 23
 - Not only that but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit.
 - Even we ourselves groan within ourselves.
 - Creation is NOT the only one that GROANS [συστενάζω]
 - We who have [present] the FIRSTFRUITS of the Holy SPIRIT - also GROAN [present] inside!
 - FIRSTFRUITS [ἀπαρχή] – were the FIRST part of a harvest - **Leviticus 23:10**
 - It was the PROMISE that there would be much more to follow [main harvest]
 - In the same way the Holy Spirit is the DEPOSIT [firstfruits] God gave to us...
 - The guarantee that there is MUCH more to follow!
 - Adoption... vs. 23
 - Eagerly waiting for the adoption!
 - We are GROANING because we are WAITING for TWO things...
 - FIRST – we are WAITING for our ADOPTION [υιοθεσία]
 - By FAITH we are the CHILDREN of God – the paperwork is signed – **Galatians 4:5**
 - But we are still waiting for the conclusion – when we get to go HOME [heaven]
 - Like a child who lives in a faraway country...
 - They get the WORD that the ADOPTION has been finalized...
 - But they still have to WAIT for the day when their father comes to bring them HOME!
 - New Body... vs. 23
 - The redemption of our body!
 - SECOND – we are WAITING to receive [ἀπεκδέχομαι] the REDEMPTION of our body...
 - Because this FALLEN body is NOT the one we will in ETERNITY - **I Corinthians 15:50**
 - And while we are still in this FALLEN body – we GROAN!
 - **II Corinthians 5:2** – “We [groan] in our present bodies and we long to put on our heavenly bodies like new clothing.” [NLT]
 - When we buy food - it comes with an EXPIRATION date...
 - As we get old we start to slow down - aches and pains - wrinkles and grey hair..
 - It is Gods way of telling saying we have an EXPIRATION date!
 - Far too often we get too attached this life and forget...
 - We are NOT home yet – our home is a place we have yet to see [heaven]
 - And until we get there we are going to GROAN [sometimes literally]
 - As a reminder this is NOT our home – we are just living in tents!

- **II Corinthians 5:1** - “We know that if our earthly house - this tent is destroyed - we have a building from God - a house not made with hands eternal in the heavens.”

- **Waiting... vs. 24-25**

- For we were saved in this hope - but hope that is seen is not hope.
- For why does one still hope for what he sees?
- But if we hope for what we do not see - we eagerly wait for it with perseverance!
- We are SAVED [passive] from being disheartened by our SUFFERING - by our HOPE...
- But if what we are HOPING for could be [passive] SEEN [βλέπω]
- Then we would NO longer need to HOPE for it [because we can see it]
- But SINCE [indicative] it is NOT seen – we do HOPE [ἐλπίζω]
- Excitedly WAITING – but with PATIENCE – for the HOPE of our ADOPTION and NEW body!
- I can remember as a young boy how I left as Christmas approached...
- I would be SO excited [though maybe not patient] because I KNEW what was coming...
- Not that I could see it – but I was CONFIDENT – there were going to be PRESENTS!
- We are going to STRUGGLE while we are in the FLESH...
- Suffering and heartache are going to be our constant companions...
- But what SAVES us – keeps us from being OVERWHELMED – is our HOPE...
- We are CONFIDENT that what is coming is worth it...
- We are EXCITED because we KNOW the reward is NOT far away...
- And that helps give us PATIENCE to face each new day!
- **Hebrews 11:14** – “For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland... they desire a better - that is a heavenly country.”

- **2ND – HELP IN SUFFERING... vs. 26-28**

- **1st – Holy Spirit... vs. 26-27**

- **In Weakness...**

- Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses!
- The FIRST thing we have to help us in our SUFFERING is HOPE...
- But that is NOT the only thing the LORD has given to us – we also have HELP...
- LIKEWISE [like with hope] – the Holy Spirit [τὸ πνεῦμα] HELPS us in our WEAKNESS...
- HELP [συναντιλαμβάνομαι] 2x in NT – to take hold with another!
- When MARTHA was overwhelmed with all the WORK she had to do – **Luke 10:40**
- She cried out to Jesus asking Him to tell MARY to HELP [συναντιλαμβάνομαι]
- When we are EXHAUSTED – and OVERWHELMED by the battle...
- When we feel like we have NOTHING left to give – NO more strength [ἀσθένεια]
- We have someone ready to lend us a HELPING hand...
- The HOLY Spirit is right there to give us the POWER we need to ENDURE!

- **In Prayer...**

- For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought.
- But the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered!
- HOW does the HOLY Spirit help us when we are WEAK...
- When we do NOT know [εἶδω] what to PRAY for [loss of words]
- But [ἀλλά] that is when SPIRIT Himself INTERCEDES for us...
- INTERCEDES [ὑπερεντυγχάνω] – to speak on behalf of another person...
- The SPIRIT groans [συστενάζω] – with words that cannot be SPOKEN [ἀλάλητος]
- This does NOT mean the SPIRIT is speaking in an UNKNOWN language...

- It means He knows what to PRAY for when we do NOT know [εἶδω]!
- The creation GROANS – because it is WAITING for the redemption...
- We GROAN – because we are SUFFERING – while WAITING for our HOPE...
- The Spirit GROANS – because He is HELPING us while we WAIT!
- How many times have we been at a LOSS for words...
- We are HURTING – we are BROKEN – and we are at a loss for what to even PRAY...
- We do NOT need the WORDS – the SPIRIT is the one who prays for us...
- Because He knows exactly what we need – He knows EVERYTHING – **Isaiah 46:10**
- God Knows...
 - Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is!
 - The FATHER [He] who SEARCHES [ἐραυνάω] our HEARTS...
 - He KNOWS what we are thinking – how we are STRUGGLING – **Hebrews 4:13**
 - Also always [perfect] KNOWS [εἶδω] what the SPIRIT is thinking [φρόνημα]
 - Because the TWO are in complete harmony!
 - **I Corinthians 2:11** – “No one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.”
 - When I was a kid we used to play a game called TELEPHONE...
 - One person would whisper into the ear of the person next to him...
 - Until the last person would try and guess the word the FIRST person said...
 - It was always humorous – because the final answer was ALWAYS way off!
 - With the SPIRIT helping us - there is NO breakdown in communication...
 - God ALWAYS knows what is going on in our hearts...
 - And the SPIRIT inside of us - ALWAYS knows the mind of God...
 - So He knows exactly HOW to PRAY for us!
- Intercession...
 - Because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God!
 - Therefore the SPIRIT is able to INTERCEDE [ἐντυγχάνω] for the SAINTS [ἅγιος]
 - So that even if we have NO idea what to SAY – and NO clue what to do...
 - The SPIRIT who is inside of us - becomes the conduit to give us the answer...
 - He becomes the INTERPRETER so we can know the WILL of God!
 - The subtle PROMPT to do or say something - without knowing why...
 - That strong CONVICTION – that makes us cautious...
 - The HOLY Spirit is always at work in our lives – interceding for us...
 - Communicating to us the WILL of God for our lives!
- 3rd – Our Confidence... vs. 28
 - All things...
 - And we know that all things work together for good!
 - And we have come to [perfect] SEE [εἶδω]
 - That EVERYTHING [πᾶς] that happens in our lives works for GOOD [ἀγαθός]!
 - That does NOT mean we UNDERSTAND in the moment...
 - There are ALWAYS going to be things that CONFUSE us...
 - We only see the MOMENT – where God see the whole picture...
 - Therefore He is going to do things that make NO sense to us [even upset us]
 - But with the vantage of time – looking back – we will ALWAYS see He had a plan!
 - **Isaiah 55:9** – “As the heavens are higher than the earth - so are My ways higher than your ways - and My thoughts than your thoughts.”

- Love God...
 - To those who love God!
 - There are TWO conditions given to having CONFIDENCE all things will work out...
 - FIRST – to those who continually [participate] LOVE [ἀγαπάω] God...
 - Because the RESULTS God brings are NOT always pleasant in the moment...
 - Therefore – those who LOVE this world are NOT going to see them as GOOD!
 - God is NOT after short term blessing – He does NOT want us rich on EARTH...
 - God is working to make us HOLY [ἁγαθός] – He wants us in HEAVEN...
 - And that often means that we have to SUFFER in the moment!

- Called by God...
 - To those who are the called according to His purpose!
 - SECOND – to those who are CALLED [present] according to His purpose [will]
 - This is the BIGGER issue – whose WILL are we looking for!
 - Those who are living SELFISHLY – are NOT going to see everything as GOOD...
 - Because our desires are often OPPOSED to the WILL of God...
 - So those who live for themselves – are going to be DISAPPOINTED by the LORD!
 - But those who are looking to the God who has the BEST plan...
 - We are still going to SUFFER – there are going to be LOTS of trials...
 - But we can have HOPE – because we know HEAVEN is coming...
 - And we have HELP – in the moment because of the SPIRIT who is in us...
 - Who INTERCEDES for us – directing us – into the WILL of God for our lives!