

ROMANS (continued)

(8) continued: Paul is listing for us the “wonder of it all” in this Holy Spirit chapter as we realize what has been done for us: at the cost of His only son He has freed us from the **penalty of sin**....He then, **adopts us** so that we become His sons and daughters (8:15)....and then He, through adoption, makes us **heirs and fellow-heirs to share in His glory!** (8:17)....have you ever been a witness to the reading of a will? In 1938, when my grandfather died, the family was gathered and I heard the lawyer say, “Josiah Kurtz leaves his business to his elder son, Earl exclusively....and the silence in the room was deafening”**I knew that something big had just come down**.....!

If there is to be an inheritance there must be someone who bequeaths it....God Himself is the Testator, with Jesus Christ as the main Heir, and we share with Him....and He is very rich (Hag.2:8) and (Ps.50:10)....which He gives to all of His children...**“THE BOUNDARY LINES HAVE FALLEN IN PLEASANT PLACES FOR ME; INDEED, A DELIGHTFUL INHERITANCE IS MINE” (PS.16:6, 11)**....that is why our culture and its emphasis on entitlement is such a barren advantage if you have no spiritual inheritance to encompass it all....we have the promise of eternal life, in heaven, with Christ, forever....we need to remind ourselves that we are not **enemies of God, nor slaves, but children (8:16)** and are willing to **suffer and share in His glory (8:17)**....How do we suffer as Christians today??? It does not mean that we will be captured and suffer torture or die for our faith (many today being martyred on a daily basis)...it could mean that you lose your job because of unscrupulous business dealings, made up your mind not to marry an unbeliever, or insist that in the classroom you will not be politically correct, or no longer being committed to a group who are behaving in ways that are not in keeping with your own disciplines.... bottom line: **I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed in us (v.18)**...

NEW EXPECTATIONS: (vs.19-27) We are now introduced to (3) types of **groaning: “whole creation (vs.19-22) we ourselves are awaiting (vs.23-25), and the Spirit Himself....Who is not included?** ...angels, Satan and his demons for they will never be set free (Jude 6), the non-elect (2 Thess.1:8-9), or the elect....this creation is eagerly looking forward for the revelation of the children of God (v.19)...that will be on the day when Christ’s return will become public knowledge....since the fall of man in sin (Garden of Eden) creation itself has paid a penalty...it has been in a stage of continuing arrested development and decay (**called by some as the 2nd law of thermodynamics....(vs.19-22)**)

Paul continues that even though we are Christians, we still have hope for future blessings when this life is over....even though we do not yet see these promises fulfilled in every-day life, we still are waiting for them to come....**(vs.23-25)**

The third groaning is the Spirit’s groaning...(v.26-27)....with us in prayer.....

ROMANS (continued)

(8) (continued) :

NEW PRIVILEGE: (vs. 26-27) There are times when we pray that it may not be clear as to the nature of those things for which we should be praying....now, we know that the Holy Spirit is there and He loves and guides us....but because of our own dilemma, we find it difficult to make it known....and this verse is telling us that He knows and helps us make it clear with His own groaning....I remember a time when a decision had to be made as to whether my aunt should be moved to a hospital or remain at the nursing home for their personal attention....I didn't know the answer and Dave said that I would have to make the final decision.....tell "rest of the story"I felt comforted in my inability to formulate the words, that the Holy Spirit was still helping me and I felt comforted.....

NEW CONFIDENCE: (vs. 28-34) This verse seems to be a grand **summary** of the whole chapter from v. 1-27....it draws for us a very comforting conclusion.... **we KNOW that to those who love God all things work together for good; to those who are called to (His) purpose.....**now, how do we know that? Because Jesus has paid for the penalty of our sin, we are indwelt by the Holy Spirit, He will raise our earthly bodies, we are heirs with Jesus Christ, we will share in His glory, we will dwell in a new heaven and earth, and the Holy Spirit helps us until then....also because of some of the experiences we have had, and the additional Bible verses that tell us that blessings come to us because of God's providence....

NEXT WEEK: We will continue looking at this verse next week, but is there some recent experience that you have had that brought this verse agreeing with this truth?

ASSIGNMENT: Hopefully finish this chapter.....

DISCUSSION TODAY? What are some new things that you have learned about the Holy Spirit that you recently have put to use in your life?

POINTS TO PONDER: Blessed are those who need God enough to know enough that He is enough (James 2:5)