

Title: ~~No Separation~~

The GLORIOUS Hope

Text: Romans 8:18-25

Would you take your Bibles, please, and open them to Romans chapter 8.

~~And~~ And we will begin with Vs 18..... *There are notes in your Bulletin.*

(Read Romans 8:18-25)

Prayer

We have been studying the principles of God's righteousness.

Condemnation was the first principle. All people are condemned. All have sinned and come short of the glory of God.

one
Secondly, we looked at the principle of Justification. This is the act of God whereby he pronounces us righteous. Not because of our performance, but because of something that Christ did at the cross which we have come to believe.

Third, we looked at the principle of sanctification. This is the act of God whereby he is making us increasingly different from those who are unbelievers. Sanctification means to "set apart." God is setting us apart for himself and making us different. And that process will be completed when Christ comes again and we will be like him, for we will see him as He is, says the Bible.

We are looking at the principle of security found in The Righteousness of God
a couple
of Sunday ago
Now, the fourth principle is security. We started this principle ~~last~~ week. And we notice that the first reason we have ~~the~~ security is that it is given by the very presence of the Holy Spirit within us. According to Vs 9 if you do not have the ^{Holy} Spirit ~~of Christ~~, you do not belong to Christ. Every believer has the Holy Spirit dwelling within him. And ^{H.S.} ~~he~~ brings the believer much security. The Bible says that as many as are led by the Spirit of God they are the sons of God. And that the Holy Spirit bears witness with our Spirit that we are the children of God. You see, we have wonderful security.

(20) Now, secondly, we want to look at the matter of our security as based upon ~~our~~ hope.... OUR HOPE...

Now, the hope of the Bible is not an abstract term. Some people say, "I HOPE SO....OR,...I HOPE IT WILL WORK OUT." *or I hope I Am saved.*

That is not the faith or the hope of the believer. Our faith *and* hope is based upon the facts of the Bible. We really believe that things are going to change in the future. That we have a tremendous hope *God's*. And this gives us security in the present. Because we know that things are going to be different in the future. *example*

I would hate to live in this world, if I did not have hope. Paul said, "that if only in this life we have hope, we are of all men most miserable." If you live 70 or 80 or 90 years and then it is all over, if there is no life after death, we of all men are most miserable. But we have hope. Hope in God's future.

I would like you to look at this matter of our hope in the following ways...

(1) First of all, in Vs 18, ~~Paul references~~ the revelation of future glory.
The revelation of future glory.

Vs 18 says
~~He says~~, "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us."

The last little phrase "in us(KJ)" or, "to us(NAS)" means "unto us." Not simple glory in us. But that which will be revealed unto us that we don't know now or see now. It will be unveiled to us. We will see it in a way that we have never seen before.

Now, the Bible attempts to show us in several passages a little bit of that glory. But it is limited by the words of the English language.

For Example
I love to read in Revelation chapter 21 and 22 that there will be no more crying, no sorrow, no tears, no death, no sin, no sickness. I love to read about the new Jerusalem and the streets paved with gold. It is fantastic.

But Friends, God Wanted me to tell you that
~~But~~ that is a drop in the bucket compared to what it really is. And the glory that is going to be unveiled. And Paul says that the sufferings that we are now going through are not worthy to be compared to *The glory that will be unveiled*

The word "worthy" is an economical term meaning "balance." In Roman times you used a certain amount of weights on one side of the scales..

And you would put what you are buying on the other side. And when they balanced then you made a deal.

Paul is saying that the sufferings we go through now are not at all in balance with the revelation of the glory that we will see. In other words, the scale is not at all in balance. Not one bit.

I like the word suffering, also. Because the word literally means "affection." You might be thinking; "affection...in what way does suffering come to mean affection?"

Well, you know, God loves you. And the Bible teaches that God discipline those whom he loves. And even when we suffering we are experiencing the very "affections" of the Lord, himself. He disciplines us because he is showing us his love. If you haven't come to see that, yet, you will in your growth as a believer.

So, Paul says that I know that the sufferings of the present are not ^{worthy to be compared} in ~~the~~ balance with the glory that is going to be unveiled.

There is something else that you should notice here. It is repeated in 2 Corinthians chapter 4:17-18 where Paul says that our light afflictions is but for a moment. Here he says "The suffering of this present time are not worthy to be compared."

"Our light affliction which is but for a moment is working for us an eternal weight of glory."

2 Corinthians 4, again, uses the weight and the balance idea. Light affliction and weight of glory. "We look not at the things which are seen." Meaning: our affliction...^{our sufferings} "but at the things which are not seen"...means "the glory that we will have one day in heaven."

You know, ever since Pepsi-cola we have been living in the "now generation." You know that don't you? Everything is here and now. I mean, do your thing now and live it up now.

Do you know that that idea is totally opposed to the Bible? It really is...Have you ever heard someone say: "YOU are so heavenly minded that you are no earthly good?"..... *Have you ever heard that? Sure you have!*

Do you know, that is a lie also?....Did you know that? *It is!*
The Bible teaches you cannot be heavenly minded enough. *in allhh!* And if you are heavenly minded, you will be of great earthly good....

God puts it this way
The Bible says "set your mind on things that are above where Christ sets at the right hand of the throne of God." "Fix your ^{eyes} affections on eternity

The total message of the N.T. is "get your eyes off the here and now. And get it on the glory that you are going to have."

You see, if you really have this hope in you, man you are going to be different. *you are going to act differently* People are going to want to know you, and be with you. They will want to know what makes you tick.

You can suffer and go through a lot of trails. But when you have that hope, you are different. Absolutely different from those folks around you who are only centered in the now.

God ~~is~~ is trying to tell us that here in Romans. That ^{now} ~~there~~ is going to be glory revealed to us..

(2) Now, the second thing that I want you to see in Vs 19 to 23 is the realization of future deliverance. The realization of future deliverance ^{for} of everything and everyone.

I don't know whether you know this or not, but with all the talk on pollution and ecology, there is going to be the greatest ecology miracle that has every happened in the history of the world. *and it is* coming real soon. Did you know about that?

By the way, people are a little mixed up on this ecology. You can see it all the time.

I saw a good example the other day. A man ~~smoking~~ smoking a cigiret picks up a piece of paper of the ground and throws it in the tash can. And then turns around and throws his cirgiret on the ground.

And that attitude happens to christians. We see the here and now and we forget what God is going to do.

Listen, dnn't get excited about the pollution. I know the food is bad... the water is getting bad...and the air smells bad....BUT DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

In one moment of time the greatest ecuology miracle is going to happen. *Do you know what it is?*

Jesus Christ is going to come back and restructure the entire world. You talk about ecology, you haven't seen anything yet. Wait till you see what is going to happen, *when Jesus comes back.*

And that is what Paul is talking about in Verses 19 to 23. Get your eyes off of this old world. It is decaying. *Get your eyes on Jesus*

There are several things that I want you to see here.

(1E) First of all, in verses 19 and 20, notice the plan of God. God intended for all that is happening in the world to happen. Did you know that? God planned it all to take place. *FOR SPIRIT HOLY* Vs 19.... "For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God."

You see, there is going to be a revealing, a revelation, given to the children of God in heaven. It is exciting.

And it says that the whole creation is waiting for that. Vs 20.. "For the creation was subjected to futility"...

The word "futility" means ["]vanity or emptiness or nothing. ["] "not of its own will, but because of Him who subjected it." *to nothing*

So, according to the Bible, God planned it all, And he subjected the entire creation to futility. It is decaying, in case you haven't noticed. Everything is decaying. You buy a little flower and put it in a vase and water it. *I gave my w.f. a rose on Valentines Day* Then in a few days it dies. It is decaying.

You buy a new car. Boy you are excited and proud. Then some dummy runs into your new car...

I mean, everything is *passing* away. It really is. You buy some new cloths and before long it has holes in it.

What is this all about? Did you know that God wants that? *to happen?* He really does. And because the world is programmed this way, even we christians keep our minds on the now, on things. Things bring happiness, right?.....

Oh, no, I don't believe that as a christian. Then ~~why~~ why are you controlled by it? And we all get caught up in this trap and play the little game. *So We think that* So, the things of the world bring happiness. Do you know what God says?.. Well, *Let me tell you what God says* I will show you: decay...futility....He destroys before our eyes those things....

Now, do you know what we do? We get rid of the old thing and buy something new....Right?....And so we keep getting dead decaying things. And we keep trying to solve the problem in side of us. Hoping that these things some how are going to bring us happiness. Why, it is the plan of God that the whole creation decays. That is the way it goes. That is its direction.

By the way, you decay also. The moment we are born the process of decay starts. And we do everything we can to avoid that fact. And rightly we ~~should~~ should. Jesus taught that we ought to look unto men as ~~though~~ though nothing else has happened in our lives.

Example: fasting...If you fast, don't appear unto ~~mean~~ ^{men} as fasting. Comb your hair and be pleasant and so forth. Now, I am glad for that. It ~~is~~ ^{is} nice. But we are still decaying. And you know, in the end it caughtes up with you. Like the other day when some little kid remained ~~that~~ me that I was over the hill. What ever that means.

You see, folks, the whole world is decaying. WHY IS GOD DOING THAT? Here is a simple verse in Romans 8 which tells you ~~what~~ to build your hope in the glory that you are going to have.

Have you lost sight of that, Christian? ^{your daily life} You getting a little weak in that? ^{area of your spiritual life} Are you so wiped up in what is going on now, and have you forgot what the point is? The point is to be with God. To spend eternity with God. And whatever we are going through right now is a drop in the bucket. Our life is like a vapor ^{Bible says} which appears for a little while and than vanishes away.

(2E) Now, the second thing that ^{God} I want you to see in Vs ~~10~~ 21 is the promise of God, himself, to delivery the entire creation from this corruption.

It says in Vs 21 "that the creation itself also will be set free from the slarvy to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God." ^{Now God, wanted me to Tell you that if you are saved} ~~Did you know that as a child of God~~ you are absolutely free from the processes of decay.

You say, "wait a minute! Aren't ~~you~~ ^{but} you going to decay?"....No!...You see, I have Christ as my Lord and Saviour and if I should happen to die before the return of Christ, then my body will go to the grave but my soul will go to be with the Lord. And in that grave where by body decays, one day the

Lord is going to resurrect it and prove that the processes of incorruption were in me all the time. I have an immortal soul. I am going to live forever. And I praise God that incorruption is now in this corruptable body. And that incorruption will one day be displayed in a physical body that will never decay, will never have any decease nor death anymore...PRAISE THE LORD.

But the point is that

Now, I already have that freedom. The bondage of corruption is no longer on me. ^{on records} And if you know Christ, it is no longer on you. You are set free. *But if you have not taken Jesus into your life, you are still under bondage.*

And God says that the whole creation is going to be set free just like the glorious freedom of the children of God.

(3 B) Now, Vs. 22. The third thing is to ^{observe} ~~observe~~ the pain that we go through ^{as Christians} in the present. We are not unrealistic. There is pain. Let's look at it. Vs 22. "For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now."

I like the ^{word} ~~word~~ that ^{is} ~~are~~ used here. Because ^{it} ~~they~~ bring out the idea of pain. It is the word "childbirth." The creation, that is subject to decay, is going through the pains of childbirth. But the product is worth waiting for. As we come back to Vs 19 "the creation waits eagerly", for the baby to be born. The glory that we are going to have in heaven, the changes that God is going to perform even in the physical universe, is tremendous.

Let me share just a few of these changes that are going to take place.

In the animal world, God is going to change it all. You know, the lion will be fun to play with? They really will be. Why, you will be able to put your arms around a wolf. The Bible says that little children will play with the wolves and the lions. And the wolves will lay down with the lambs...That is a change. You must admit. A wolf laying down with a lamb! Now why will this happen? Because God will perform a wonderful change in the animal world...

But, also, there is going to be a change in the physical universe. The ground, the trees, the grass, everything. And those of you who do not have a green thumb. Just forget about it. You will not need one. You can put a rose in your window and it will never decay... *How about that?*

You can go out in this desert around Taft and there will be flowers growing everywhere....*Orchids in the middle of an old field* HOW ABOUT THAT?

It is going to be a great world. And it is coming. The ~~the~~ Bible predicts it.

But Right now Now, the whole world is waiting with childbirth, / ~~the~~ pains, with pollution, problems, and so forth. We are in the process of that childbirth.

(4E) Now, the ~~the~~ fourth thing that I want you to see is the people that are involved. Not just the physical universe, but people. Vs 23 says "And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit."

Here Paul takes you back to the first 17 verses. *of the chapter* If you have the Holy Spirit in you, that is the first fruit of what is going to be a fantastic harvest when you get to heaven.

Notice the rest of Vs 23 "even we ourselves groan within ourselves" You see, there is a ~~little~~ pain. "waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body." God is going to redeem our bodies. Think about that.....A few of you sitting out there have some pains in the old body. Your back hurts, your arms hurt, you have a tooth ach. You have some real serious pains. Willn't it be great the moment Jesus comes. I mean it is all going to be gone.

~~Do~~ Do you know that could change the endurance of the pain right now? It could really change, if you really believe that at any moment Jesus Christ could come for you.....

You see, that is what Paul is trying to drive home to us. That that hope is in the believer and it can produce an enormous volume of security. Friends, we have a hope that is far greater than this world could ever think of or dream off. *and many of you forget that. And you let Satan defeat you -*

(3D) Now, Vs 24 and 25, The third thing that I want you to see in this passage is the reality of this hope in the present. What sort of effect does it have on me right now. This hope in the future. *Can effect me now* According to Vs 24 we are saved by hope. It says "For in ~~in~~ hope we have been saved."

You know, dear friends, you cannot be a christian unless you believe this.

You see, we are not coming to Christ just ~~to~~ have peace or to feel good. We are not accepting Christ in order to get rid of a few problems that we have in our life. That is not the issue. We are trusting Christ because of the consequences of the Gospel. We are going to either be in heaven or we are going to be in hell. That is what the Bible says. And so the real issue is whether we are going to be in that glory in eternity.

Not that we have a little bit more happiness here. You know, that is a mistake to tell folks that. If you just ask Jesus into your heart, he will take care of all your problems and you will be happy.

Why, right away, that new convert will face suffering and testing like he has never seen. And they will question their salvation. Hay, am I really saved. And it happened because you told ~~them~~ them that they were going to be happier. And all of a sudden ~~they~~ they have trouble.

Have you ever noticed that as a believer you still have trials and problems. Have you noticed that? Sure we do. Well, you are all bad christian. Why don't you get rid of all of that. Because we can't get rid of all of that.

You see, believe it or not, when you become a christian you are still a people. Remind yourself of that every now and then.

You are not a christian because of the way you perform. You are a Christian because of what you believe... *and who you have accepted*

And we don't often see, now, what we shall be. But when we see him, it is going to be a brand new day. That is coming. So, get your eyes off of this life and on to what we are going to have. And it will make a difference in your life now.

And the key issue here in Vs 24 and 25 is what I would call the number one attribute of maturity in the life of the believer...WHAT DO YOU THINK IT IS?.....It is found in Vs 25.....WHAT IS IT?...ANYONE....

Patience...(or perseverance).....

Oh, we all want patience, don't we?...According to James 1, patience is the key to maturity. God says "let patience have its mature work so that you may be ~~perfect or~~ mature wanting nothing.....PATIENCE.....

Well, according to the Bible we don't see, now, the glory that we are going to have. So we have hope. And that hope produces patience.

Pat Hope also produces

Do ~~you know what else it produces?~~ PURITY.....I John 3:3...The verse says that "every one who has this hope fixed on him purifies himself, just as He is pure."

Let me give you an example. If I could prove conclusively, right now, to everyone of you, I mean without a shadow of doubt, that in 60 seconds Jesus Christ is going to return....

One...two....three....Boy, I can smell the confession of sins right now... three...four....Some of you would be running out to call a friend and apogology and ask forgiveness.

Isn't it amazing the kind of effect that would have on us. I mean if you really knew that in 60 seconds Jesus would be here. Boy, we would really be hustling around to clean things up.

Every man who has this hope resting on him is purifing himself, just as He is pure. It effects our purity as well.

Over in 2 Peter cahapter 3 verse 17 it tells us that ^{*This Hope*} it effects our perseverance also. Keeping at it. Being steadfast. B_oing faithful. It says knowing all these things about the coming of the Lord, he wareded us to be careful lest we fall into the error of unprincipled men, and thus we fall from our own steadfastness.

Keep serving the Lord. ^{*Keep witness*} WHY? Because the Lord could come at any moment.

And it also effects our ^{*practice*} practice. What we do in our life. Because Jesus

^{*ask*} said in Luke 12:43 whbn the Lord comes will he find his servants so doing.....Or, will ^{*they*} be asleep? ●

you see When the hope of the Lord's return is on you, man, you see effects in your life right now. It really changes things. PRAISE THE LORD FOR THAT.

Hope ~~is it~~ changing your Life?

Where is your ~~hope~~ servants - Things of the world or in J.C.