

Romans – Chapter 8b

Summary of first half of Chapter 8

- *There is no condemnation for those in Christ*
- *We set our minds on the Spirit because the Spirit dwells in us*
- *If we are led by the Spirit, we are children of God*
- *Because we are children of God, we are heirs of the promises*

Chapter 8b: More Than Conquerors

Word to highlight: **God**

Present suffering, future glory (18-19)

¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God.

Why is our current suffering ‘not worth comparing’ to our future glory?

Labour Pains (20-22)

²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.

After the fall of man, the creation was subjected to ‘futility’ or ‘frailty’ or ‘vanity’. This is what we commonly call ‘the curse’ (from Genesis 3:17-19). It was not just humans who suffered the consequences of sin, but all creation. So, all creation is waiting, like a woman in labour, ‘to be set free from its bondage to corruption’ (vs 21).

“No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground. He comes to make his blessings flow, far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found.”

God often uses the metaphor of childbirth. It illustrates pain and patience while waiting for future hopes to be realised. Read through the following passages and reflect on why pregnancy is a good metaphor for hope.

- Isaiah 26:17-18

- Isaiah 66:8-9

Hope and patience (23-25)

²³ And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

What are we groaning for?

How do we hope with patience?

Help from the Spirit (26-27)

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

What does Paul mean here by ‘in our weakness’? What weakness might he be talking about?

Foreknew → Glorified (28-30)

²⁸ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

Paul says ‘we know’ all things work together for good – how do we know that?

Why is it important that we know that?

What are you scared of? (31-34)

³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ³³ Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

What is the point of all these rhetorical questions? What point is Paul making?

Suffering, but not separated (35-36)

³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written,

*“For your sake we are being killed all the day long;
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”*

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

This is one of the most quoted passages in the entire Bible. Why is it quoted so often? When would it be helpful to quote this to someone?

Questions

How would we summarise this chapter?

What can I apply from what I have learnt? How does this chapter change my choices and behaviour?

What is something I can pray for based on this text?