

ROMANS 8…CONTINUED

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In the depth of Romans 8, we see Paul drawing a contrast between two (2) kinds of life:

1. ***A life which is dominated by sinful human nature:***
   - ***Whose focus and center is "self."***
   - ***Whose only law is its own desires…which takes where it likes.***
   - ***He is passion controlled, lust controlled, pride-controlled or ambition controlled.***
2. ***A life dominated by the Spirit of God:***
   - *He has no mind of his own; Christ is his mind.*
   - *He has no desires of his own; the will of Christ is his only law.*
   - *He is Spirit-controlled, Christ-controlled, God focused.*

Two lives going in diametrically opposite directions:

1) *The life that is dominated by the desires and activities of sinful human nature is on the way to death….further and further away from God….making himself unfit ever to stand in the presence of God….hostile to God, resentful of His law and His control.*
   REMEMBER: No man ever won the last battle against THE I AM.
2) *The Spirit-controlled life, the Christ-centered life, the God-focused life is daily coming nearer heaven even when it is still on earth.*
   It is a life which is such a steady progress to God that the final transition of death is only a natural and inevitable stage on the way.

Romans 8:12-17, "Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. [13] For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. [14] For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. [15] For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." [16] The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, [17] and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together."

Paul describes the new relationship of the Christian to God.

He speaks of the Christian being adopted into the family of God.

Paul is saying….it is the Holy Spirit himself who is the witness to our adoption into the family of God.

Paul's picture….when a man became a Christian he entered into the family of God. He did nothing to deserve it; God, the great Father, in His

amazing love and mercy, has taken the lost, helpless, poverty-stricken, debt-laden sinner and adopted him into His family, so that the debts are cancelled and the glory inherited.
John 1:12….“For as many as received Him…gave them the power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name.”

We have been adopted into THE King’s Family. Enjoy your inheritance! Incidentally…the KING desires to pay for your education.
READ THE BOOK AND USE YOUR EDUCATION WISELY!

Romans 8:18-39 is a profound passage in the Bible that resonates with believers, offering them hope, assurance, and a reminder of God's unfailing love. The words penned in this section of Scripture serve as a beacon of comfort, especially in times of suffering and uncertainty. One key theme highlighted in this passage is the contrast between the temporary sufferings of the present time and the eternal glory that awaits believers. It reminds us that our current struggles, no matter how intense, pale in comparison to the future glory that God has prepared for us.

Romans 8:18-39, “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. 19 For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; 21 because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. 23 Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. 24 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? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance. 26 Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession [b] for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. 27 Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. 29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.” 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 delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? 33 Who shall bring a charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written:
“For Your sake we are killed all day long;
We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.”
37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. 38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers,

nor things present nor things to come, [39] nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Paul paints pictures with his words…
He goes from speaking of the glory of adoption into the family of God….and then comes back to the trouble state of this present world.
Jews knew what Paul was speaking of:
Jewish thought divided time into two sections:
(1) This Present Age
The present age was wholly bad, subject to sin, death and decay.
(2) The Age to Come
Someday there would come The Day of the Lord. This was a day of judgment when the world would be shaken to its foundations; but out of it would come a new world.
The Old Testament = "Behold I create new heavens and a new earth." (Isaiah 65:17)
The New Testament = Revelation20:11 to the end (Chapters 21 & 22)

Paul is stating….that we long for the day when sin's dominion would be broken, death and decay would be gone…and God's glory would come.
Paul painted a picture….a transformation will take place…
IT IS OUR HOPE….PAUL SAW LIFE AS:
Not as a despairing waiting for an inevitable end in a world encompassed by sin, death and decay;
Life was an "eager anticipation/expectation" of a liberation, a renovation and a recreation wrought by the glory and the power of God.
Therefore….the keynote of the Christian life is always hope and never despair. The Christian waits, not for death, but for life.

Very important prayer passage:
Because of our weakness, we do not know what to pray for, but the prayers we ought to offer are offered for us by the Holy Spirit.
"Prayer is the divine in us appealing to the Divine above us." C.H. Dodd
Two reasons why we cannot pray as we ought:
(1) We cannot foresee the future.
(2) In any given situation we do not know what is best for us…God is like the parent who knows what is best for the child…the child wants something, but the parent knows that it will hurt him.

We cannot know our own real need; we cannot with our finite minds grasp God's plan; in the last analysis all that we can bring to God is an inarticulate sigh which the Spirit will translate to God for us.
Paul goes on to say…those who love God, and are called according to His purpose, know well that God is intermingling all things for the good to them.
Things that seemed and were bad at the time…worked out in the end to greater blessings….Things worked out together for our good!
Note: Only to those who love God.

The Christian experience:

The more a Christian thinks of his experience the more he becomes convinced that he had nothing to do with it and all is of God.
Jesus Christ came into this world; He lived; He went to the Cross; He arose again.
We did nothing to bring that about; that is God's work.
We heard the story of His wondrous love. We did not make the story; we only received the story.
Love woke within our hearts; the conviction of sin came, and with it came the experience of forgiveness and of salvation.
We did not achieve that; all is of God.
Romans 8:31 – 39, This passage is very clear to us.
Two statements:

(1) It is God who acquits us. IT IS FINISHED!
(2) Our belief is in a Christ who died and rose again and who is alive forevermore…that is the statement. If that be so, is there anything in this or any other world that can separate us from our Risen Lord?

The judge of all men is Jesus Christ. He is the one who has the right to condemn----but He is at God's right hand interceding for us, and therefore we are safe.
The disasters of the world do not separate a man from Christ; they bring him closer.
Paul is saying:
"You can think of every terrifying thing that this or any other world can produce. Not one of them is able to separate the Christian from the love of God, which is in Jesus Christ, Master over everything."

Of what then shall we be afraid?