

# Suffering and Glory

(Rom 8:17-18)

- Remember the context is the assurance of justification by faith

## I. Rom 8:14-17

A) In this previous section, Paul listed specific assurances of the believer

1. He began with being led of the Spirit in our daily life
2. He went on to the experience of being brought into bondage to sin in our mind by the Holy Spirit
3. He then step upwards with the Spirit of adoption
4. Next came the direct testimony of the sealing of the Holy Spirit
5. Finally Paul brought in suffering in Christ, not only as an ultimate assurance, but as an introduction to the next sub-section

B) Rom 8:18-25- Paul is still dealing with the assurance of the believer

1. Rather than cause us to doubt our position in Christ, suffering for His namesake is the greatest external seal a believer might have
2. Paul now takes this opportunity to edify and encourage the believers regarding suffering
  - i. To summarize:
    - a) We have been delivered from bondage to sin in Adam, and joined unto the Lord Jesus Christ
    - b) We have been delivered from God's wrath to come
    - c) We are dead with Christ, buried with Him and raised with Him
    - d) We are freed from the dominion of the Law
    - e) We are seated with Him in the heavenly places
    - f) We are made to taste of the gifts of the age to come
  - ii. So why then are we suffering?
    - a) This is what Paul will begin to explain next

## II. Rom 8:17-18

A) "For"- Even though a new sub-section begins here in v.18, it is directly linked to what went before it (not a parenthesis as some teach)

1. Suffering for Christ's sake is an assurance of salvation, as it proves we are being sanctified for glory (2 Cor 3:18)
  - i. Heb 12:6- "Whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth.."
    - a) Rom 8:17- "We suffer IN ORDER THAT we may be glorified together" with Him
      - 1) Rom 5:12-21- Union with Christ is the subject that brought on this whole section

- 2) Rom 5:1-5- Tribulation and hope of glory
- B) Glorification will now be at the center of the discussion in ch 8
  - 1. “Glorification”- Full deliverance from sin in every aspect and realm
    - i. The ultimate end of salvation is glorification
      - a) 1 John 3:1-3- “We shall be like Him”
        - 1) We suffer like He did in this world, and shall be like Him in glory in the next world
      - b) Salvation is not simply “saved from hell” or “forgiven”
        - 1) 1 Pet 3:18- Christ suffered so that He could “bring us to God” in glory
      - c) Rom 8:29-30- Glorification guaranteed
    - ii. Suffering and glory always linked together:
      - a) John ch 15-17- Hated by world and with Christ in glory
      - b) Rom 5:1-4- Tribulation now and glory to follow
      - c) 2 Cor 4:17-18- Affliction and the weight of glory
      - d) 2 Cor 5:1-5- Groaning and the glory to come
      - e) Col 1:24-27- Suffering and the riches of glory
      - f) 2 Tim 2:12- Suffering and reigning
    - iii. Yet suffering has so often caused doubting
      - a) Job is the great example of this in scripture
      - b) Paul comes in like Elihu here in Rom ch 8
- C) The result of all this:
  - 1. Fallen man
    - i. Rom 3:23- Man was created for glory but came short through sin
      - a) Adam was created in the image of God, and he received something of the glory of God in that creation
        - 1) Dominion- He was given the glorious rule of creation
        - 2) Man still has a sense of his original position and purpose, and therefore goes about to reclaim some portion of it
          - (a) John 5:42-44- Seeking the glory of men
          - (b) Isa 57:20- The wicked like the restless sea
          - (c) “Our hearts will always be restless until they find their rest in Christ”- Augustine
            - (1) Fallen man is now in disgrace
            - (2) He is in decay in body and soul
            - (3) He is not what he was meant to be, and knows it internally
              - 1. Therefore the result is that he is always going about seeking his own glory, looking to elevate himself
              - 2. Yet every plan falls short, and any so-called glory is fleeting

3. This is the cycle of fallen man's life, individually and nationally

2. Regenerate man

- i. We can only truly begin to understand union with Christ when we realize we are destined for glory
  - a) Salvation cannot be anything less than complete redemption and full restoration of glory
    - 1) But even the restoration of Adam's prior state is not enough
      - (a) Adam was innocent, not righteous
      - (b) It seems like he could have been granted glory for obedience, but that was never to happen
      - (c) 1 Cor 15:45- Christ "the 2<sup>nd</sup> man Adam"
        - (1) This is the double portion of scripture
        - (2) Compare Job ch 1 with ch 42
        - (3) "Where He displays His healing power, death and the curse are known no more; in Him the tribes of Adam boast more blessing than their father lost"- Isaac Watts