

THE BOOK OF ROMANS

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO GRACE.
THE FOUNDATION OF NEW TESTAMENT THEOLOGY.

Romans 8:18-30

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Sunday, October 1, 2023

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?” – PART 4

The Gospel of Grace. The Foundation of New Testament Theology
And How The Justified Shall Live by Faith in Jesus Christ Alone.

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Adoption, Redemption, Justification, Sanctification, Children of God, Indwelling.

Romans 8:18-23

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.

“The deep logic of God's truth can be expressed in both stories and arguments, by questions as well as statements, through reason and the imagination, through the four Gospels as well as through the book of Romans!”

Oswald “Os” Guinness, Oxford University

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

1.) When time is running out

vs. 18

Romans 8:18-23

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.

1a.) We're to be looking to practice expectation

vs. 18a

1b.) We're to be looking for the right perspective

vs. 18b

1c.) We're to be looking forward to the beginning

vs. 18c

Titus 2:13

**Looking for the blessed hope and glorious
appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ**

Words and Actions Ought to Define the Great Expectation of the Christian Life

2 Timothy 4:8

Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

Colossians 3:4

When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. 15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

1 Corinthians 15:50-53

Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed - 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead (others) will be raised incorruptible, and we (present) shall be changed. 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

2.) When hope is increasing

vs. 19-21

Hope is one of if not, the most important ingredient
that makes up the health and welfare of the human soul.

- me

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?
WHEN HOPE IS INCREASING

2a.) Knowing that even nature is waiting

vs. 19

Romans 8:19

For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.

Earnest Expectation grk: apo'kara'dokia

a strained, anxious, "tip-toe" peering over the fence type of expectancy.

Eagerly grk: apekdechomai

to be awaiting eagerly because of expectation, waiting as in having somewhere to go, to be in the "getting ready" mode, expecting that which has been long waited for.

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?
WHEN HOPE IS INCREASING

2b.) Knowing that a plan is unfolding

vs. 20

**For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly,
but because of Him who subjected it in hope;**

Romans 8:20-21 NLT

Against its will, all creation was subjected to God's curse. But with eager hope, 21 the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay.

Hope grk: elpizo

a guaranteed or assured pleasure. the word implies that it is the kind of hope that is inescapable or unable to miss. there will be no disappointment or disillusionment due to the fact that it is a hope guaranteed by God, and not by man.

Subjected grk: Hupotasso

to put in place or to rank under, to subject to, to cause to be held captive by a foreign power, to place in a state of judgment until...

Picking It Up Here we Move on into This Glorious Truth

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?
WHEN HOPE IS INCREASING

2c.) Knowing that the ultimate makeover is coming

vs. 21

because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

At the Great Tribulation Period – Jesus Christ Returns to earth with His Church to Establish His 1,000 Year Reign on Earth.

One of the Great Events of the 2nd Coming
Will be the reestablishment of Creation and its Deliverance.

No more demonically inspired Sacramento or Washington DC

The bills and laws designed to destroy the culture, the civilization are not humanly sourced but rather of a satanic origin – with more to come!

But – When Jesus Christ returns to earth at His Second Coming, He’s gonna introduce His legislation from His Capital – Jerusalem and it's going to be awesome...

“Project Eden”

The Great Earth Restoration Act

Verse 21

because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption

Delivered

grk: leu'the'roo

to take out and away from danger or slavery or prison and to make free or exempt, to be put in its rightful place or condition.

Corruption grk: ph'tho'ra

death, dying, kill, killing, a perishable life was never God’s plan, yet through God and by God He for us and all creation He had a redemptive MAKE-OVER in His grand RE-DESIGN.

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

3.) When life will be fully lived

vs. 22-23

3a.) Is when this fallen age finally fails

vs. 22

Romans 8:22

**For we know that the whole creation groans and labors
with birth pangs together until now.**

Groans grk: **sus'te'na'zo**

to exhibit pain or to show evidence of pain, the physical, emotional and non-physical worlds (spirit realms) are out of sorts, disjointed, misaligned. skewed.

(invaded from the outside in)

It's a remarkable word because it is suggestive of something perfectly balanced becoming unbalanced. Something that is so perfectly precise and perfectly tuned - - but something foreign, unnatural enters from the outside - into its existence and knocks it out of its designed symbiotic union with all other things around it.

This **“together until now”** means that we as followers

of Jesus Christ agree that this world is not as it ought to be. We know that what nature is suffering through is not natural or consistent with the design. It has entered into a state of **sus'te'na'zo** – thus “Death is not part of life” or “Dying is just part of the life cycle of living things” – that is insane. Death is the result of disobedience.

Lisa was watching the only real - reality show on tv – “ALONE” and there was the murdering of a squirrel...

**WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?
WHEN LIFE WILL BE FULLY LIVED**

3b.) Is when suffering comes to its end

vs. 23a

23a Not only that, but we also who have the first-fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting

This is one of the most tender, sweet and compassionate verses you will ever come to know.

God's Counter Measures

2 Corinthians 4:16-18, 5:1-2

Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. 17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, 18 while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal. 5:1 For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. 2 For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven,

1 Corinthians 15:24-26

Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. 25 For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. 26 The last enemy that will be destroyed is death.

“First-fruits”

Throughout the Old Testament era – whatever you

did in life by way of “receiving” a part of each benefit “blessing” was to be given back to God as an act of appreciation, Thanksgiving, Gratitude = Worship.

The first-fruits is what the harvest (God) provided first and best.

Example - if you grew grapes, no matter what was the first of your labor – the first harvesting of grapes was to be presented to God as a worship offering.

Proverbs 3:9

Honor the LORD with your possessions, and with the firstfruits of all your increase.

The Feast of Firstfruits – given by God to Moses, to pass down to the children of Israel, was a springtime celebration.

On the Hebrew calendar, it is to be celebrated on the 16th of Nisan which places it 3 days after Passover which places it 2 days after the Feast of Unleavened Bread. (see Leviticus 23)

Leviticus 23:9-12

And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 10 “Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: ‘When you come into the land which I give to you, and reap its harvest, then you shall bring a sheaf of the first-fruits of your harvest to the priest. 11 He shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, to be accepted on your behalf; on the day after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it. 12 And you shall offer on that day, when you wave the sheaf, a male lamb of the first year, without blemish, as a burnt offering to the LORD.

Deuteronomy 26:10b-11a

“Then you shall set it before the LORD your God, and worship before the LORD your God. 11 So you shall rejoice in every good thing which the LORD your God has given to you and your house.

Significantly, if Jesus was sacrificed at Passover, then His resurrection on the third day would have fallen on the 16th Nisan which was the “Feast of First-fruits.”

1 Corinthians 15:14-22

And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty. 15 Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up - if in fact the dead do not rise. 16 For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. 17 And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins... 19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable. 20 But now Christ is risen from the

dead, and has become the First-fruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For since by man (adam) came death, by Man (Jesus) also came the resurrection of the dead.
22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?
WHEN LIFE WILL BE FULLY LIVED

3c.) Is when you become the redeemed you

vs. 23b

for the adoption, the redemption of our body.

Then and only then will you become
~~(not the improved you)~~ but the new – new creation you.

- 1.) There is the **fact** that those who live for Christ are actually real Christians.
- 2.) There is the **evidence** of being a family member in the family of Christ.
- 3.) There is the **ever-present** internal witness of the Holy Spirit's possession.

Ephesians 4:30

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were
sealed *(marked out, identified, secured)* for the day of redemption.

Romans 8:23

but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit,

1 Corinthians 15:50-52

Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does
corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall
all be changed *(become the firstfruits)* 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye,

James 1:18

Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first-fruits of
His creatures.

1 Corinthians 15:23

But each one in his own order: Christ the first-fruits,
afterward those who are Christ's at His coming.

End of Study

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