

Famous Chapters in the Bible, Part 4: Romans 8:18-38, Page 1 of 2

Notes from the class taught by Pastor Doug Livingston, April 18 & 25, 2012

Background: It is believed that Paul wrote his letter to the Romans between 57 & 58 B.C. from Corinth. Though he did not start the church there, he desired to visit Rome on his way to Spain (Romans 15:22-25), but arrived there as a prisoner & died there as a martyr.

Henrietta Mears, in her book, "What the Bible Is All About," divides Romans into the following sections:

What We Are by Nature (Romans 1:1-3-30)

How to Become a Christian (3:21-5:21)

How to Live the Christian Life (6-8)

Why Israel Is Set Aside (9-11)

How to Serve God (12-16)

In Romans 7:15-25, Paul describes his own personal struggle with the flesh. Notice he mentions the word "I" 21 times in these verses.

By contrast, in Romans 8:1-17, he mentions the Holy Spirit 12 times.

17. "If" often means "since" in Scripture. Our sufferings on earth, as Christians, will culminate with the glorification of our bodies when Christ comes for us (I Thessalonians 4:13-18; I Corinthians 15:51-57).

Romans 8:18-35

18. Paul: "For our light & momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all" (II Corinthians 4:17, NIV).

19. God's creation (Genesis 1) cannot wait for the time when we are revealed as "God's sons" at the second coming of Christ to the earth which will be restored to an Eden-like state. See Isaiah 11:6-9; 55:12-13.

20. When Adam sinned, God cursed the earth with "thorns, thistles & death" (Genesis 3:17-19). As a result, all of nature suffered & continues to suffer in futility.

21. At Christ's return, God's creation will be free to be what He created them to be to His glory.

22. WM: "We live in a sighing, sobbing, suffering world. Nature's music is in a minor key. The earth is racked with cataclysm. The blight of death is on every living thing."

23. We, too, even as believers in Jesus, groan in these aging bodies in a crooked & perverse world which keeps getting more so all the time. Our souls have been redeemed, but, our bodies are yet to be redeemed at the coming of Christ for His Church (Rapture).

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24. WM: “We did not receive all the benefits of our salvation at the moment of our conversion.” Our hope is in our coming Lord & the glorification of our bodies like His. Paul reminds us that we are “looking for the blessed hope & the appearing of the glory of our great God & Savior, Christ Jesus” (Titus 2:13).

25. Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen (Hebrews 11:1). We are to persevere, standing of the promises of God, until our hope is realized. See also Philippians 3:20-21.

26-27. The Spirit groans along with us & intercedes for us at times when we cannot find the words to pray.

28. What “good” does God work for in us? 29. The answer: to become more like Christ.

30. God predestined us for salvation, called us to salvation, justified (acquitted) us through salvation & will glorify us because of our salvation.

31. Since God is omnipotent (all-powerful) & working on our behalf, who can disrupt His power & His plan?

32. WM: “When a world of lost mankind needed to be saved by a sinless Substitute, the great God of the universe did not hold back His heart’s best Treasure, but gave Him over to a death of shame & loss on our behalf.”

33. Satan is called “the accuser of the brothers” in Revelation 12:10. We see him doing this with Job in Job 1:6-12 & 2:1-6 & with Joshua in Zechariah 3:1-2. Each time, the Lord came to their defense.

34. See verse 1. Jesus Christ is now seated at the right hand of God interceding for us!

35. All of these troubles will challenge & shake our faith & resolve.

36. Psalm 44:22. Sheep can easily get themselves into trouble & be threatened by wolves.

37. And yet, the Shepherd is always there to guide & rescue His sheep & fend off the wolves (Psalm 23).

38. Paul is sure, based on his own experiences, that nothing in all of life & death can separate him from God’s love for him in Christ Jesus (39). See also II Corinthians 1:3-11.

WM: William MacDonald