

Romans Chapter 8
Week 5, v. 22-24

What is our response to the truths we looked at last week in Romans 8:20-21?

2 Pet 3:14 Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless,

Being in “slavery to corruption” or the bondage of sin, is a corrupt, imperfect, perishing condition. It is one that leads to sin, and temptation, and conflict, and anxiety. It is a condition often which destroys the peace, mars the happiness, dims the hope, enfeebles the faith, and weakens the love of Christians; Albert Barnes’ NT Commentary

“The freedom of the glory of the children of God” is freedom from the bondage under which the Christian groans. It will be freedom from sin; from corruption; from evil desires; from calamity; from death. The highest freedom in the universe is that which is enjoyed in heaven, where the redeemed are under the sovereignty and government of their King, Albert Barnes’ NT Commentary

Rom 8:22 For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.

How do we know that all of creation is groaning and suffering?

This verse begins with the assumption that the readers can readily see the suffering and pain of all living things.

Groan <sustenazo> to moan jointly, experience a common calamity, groan together

Suffers the pains of childbirth together <sunodino> to have pangs in company, simultaneously with; to sympathize (in expectation of relief from suffering); travail in pain together

Collectively all of creation is groaning as it waits to be delivered from the curse of sin. What do you see when you look around? Are things improving or worsening?

Rom 8:23 And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for [our] adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.

What type of plans have you made for the future? Perhaps there is a wedding in your family, a significant birthday or anniversary year, the birth of a baby drawing near, a visit from a dear friend or relative, completion of a degree or graduation, moving to a different home or location or a trip to see a part of the world you've always wanted to visit. These are all things we look forward to with positive anticipation.

Paul says in Romans 8:23 that we are to be anticipating that future time when we realize our full adoption as children of God – when we are rid of our earthly, corrupt bodies and are received into glory – soul and body perfected.

When you are anticipating an exciting event in the future, how is your thinking or purpose affected? Think of those times when you have experienced a sense of urgency to complete plans you are making. Do you feel that same way about heaven?

Most of us have experienced being in a car with a child who is eager to arrive at their destination. How many times have you heard 'are we there yet' or 'how much longer is it'? Have you experienced the constant question of a child asking for something – to the point of having to say, 'Don't ask again'?

Perhaps you've had someone say to you in a tone of displeasure, "You always have to mention God when we talk". What is your response? Should you be offended by this comment? Why or why not?

'Waiting eagerly' <apekdechomai> means to expect fully:-- look for. It's the idea of we can hardly wait – everything else pales in comparison to what is our certain future in heaven with our Lord and Savior.

Having the 'first-fruits' of the Spirit, or being saved, has given us a taste or a small sample of what is available to us as God's children. This taste just increases our appetite for the future when we will enjoy all that is our inheritance as adopted sons and daughters.

John 14:3 "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you to Myself; that where I am, [there] you may be also.

Col 3:4 When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

Titus 2:11-14 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus; who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

Mat 24:44 "For this reason you be ready too; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think [He will.]

Phil 4:5 Let your forbearing [spirit] be known to all men. The Lord is near.

Heb 10:23-25 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging [one another]; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near.

The promises in God's word produce hope for those who are His children. What does it mean to have hope? Hope means we anticipate or expect something with confidence that it is going to happen – there is certainty attached to it. Even though we have not seen with our eyes the God who has redeemed us with the death and resurrection of His only Son, we know for certain, through the work of the Holy Spirit, that what we believe, based on what the Bible says, is true.

How would you define faith? Faith is believing in something not seen. We accept the accounts of things written in the Bible because of faith given to us from the Father through His Spirit. Some of the truths we believe may seem illogical to those who do not have the Holy Spirit.

Rom 8:24 For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one also hope for what he sees?

2 Cor 5:7 for we walk by faith, not by sight

Heb 11:1 Now faith is the assurance of [things] hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

2 Cor 4:18 while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

The hope that is seen, that is, enjoyed, is no longer hope, it is fruition: and a man cannot hope for that which he has in his possession. Adam Clarke's Commentary

Hope ends when possession is complete. What sustains you through trials?

What does the Bible say about hope?

Rom 5:1 Therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God.

Rom 15:4 For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

Rom 5:13 Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Gal 5:5 For we through the Spirit, by faith, are waiting for the hope of righteousness.

Col 1:4-5 since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love which you have for all the saints; because of the hope laid up for you in heaven, of which you previously heard in the word of truth, the gospel,

Col 1:22-23 yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach--if indeed you continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel that you have heard, which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, was made a minister.

1 Thess 5:8 But since we are of [the] day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation.

Heb 6:18-19 in order that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we may have strong encouragement, we who have fled for refuge in laying hold of the hope set before us. This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a [hope] both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil,

1 Pet 1:3-4 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to [obtain] an inheritance [which is] imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,

William Burkitt's Notes on the New Testament says this about Romans 8:24 – "Faith is the evidence of things not seen, and hope is the expectation of those things".

Application Questions

Read Romans Chapter 8 then go back and review verses 22-24.

In what ways do you see creation groaning and suffering?

How aware are you of your own personal weaknesses? Can you imagine that day when your adoption is fully realized and sin is no longer present? What is your response to the future that is promised to God's children?

The following verses reveal God's promises to us now and for the future and also His instruction to us on how to live as His children. You might consider making a list of His promises and His instructions as you review these scriptures.

John 14:3; Colossians 3:4; Titus 2:11-14; Matthew 24:44; Philippians 4:5; Hebrews 10:23-25.

What do the promises in God's word produce for His children?

What does it mean to have hope? How has hope in your future helped you through difficult circumstances? Romans 5:13; 15:4; Colossians 1:22-23; Hebrews 6:18-19

As you go through this week, consider how the hope for your future affects each circumstance that presents itself. Take a minute to jot these things down so you are able to encourage others.

What other thoughts and questions come to mind as you study Romans 8:22-24?