

Paul's Epistle to the Romans

Romans 8

Sanctification in Christ

Romans 6-8: God's Work of Sanctification

1. **Objective side** of sanctification: **Rom 6** is the objective Word of truth on how the finished work Christ Jesus has accomplished our sanctification
 - the truth of our full salvation is that we are cut off from the old man and set free to live in Christ is our foundation
2. **Subjective side** of sanctification: **Rom 7-8** works out the necessary experience of sanctification as it takes the Word of truth and **applies the cross** as we move from the **knowledge** of our position to the progressive stages of **experience** of sanctification starting from within
 - Paul himself confesses his personal crisis over Sin and the flesh after being a christian causing him to cry out, “**O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?**”
3. **HPOV**: as we progress in sanctification our minds are renewed away from being preoccupied with **our** justification, redemption, and sanctification as we realize how important our union with Christ is **for God** in completing His purposes

HPOV: Overview of Romans 8

Sanctification by the Spirit

1. Rom 8.1-13 a new Law:
the Holy Spirit sanctifies us
spirit, soul, and body

2. Rom 8.14-28 the new Way:
the Holy Spirit “comes
alongside” and groans with us
in hope as we pass through
our transforming tribulations

3. Rom 8.29-30 the new
predestined goal; Sonship

4. Rom 8.31-39 the new eternal Covenant (Law): His promise
to love and never let go until He glorifies Christ in us



Rom 8:5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.

Romans 8.5-9 Two Walks Contrasted

1. **Romans 8.5-6** Contrast of end results
 - a. Flesh-minded leads the inner man on a deadly course
 - b. Spirit-minded keeps us in zoé and shalom (His abiding Presence)
2. **Romans 8.7-8** Contrasting relations with God
 - a. **Romans 8.7** Manward: our Flesh is hostile toward God (self submits only to the Law of Self)
 - b. **Romans 8.8** Godward: God can never be pleased with flesh (Self competes with the Lord's throne)
3. **Romans 8.9** “**But you...**” Paul hoping the Romans dwell “in the Spirit” of God:
 - a. Test: is the “Spirit of God” in you?
 - b. Result: you are God's if the “Spirit of Christ” dwells in you

Rom 8:10 But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

**Romans 8.10-13 Real victory over the flesh's hold is conditional:
IF we walk in the Spirit**

1. **Romans 8.10** **if** we realize how dead our bodies are because of sin, **then** the Spirit can overcome death's power by His power of resurrection life
2. **Romans 8.11** **if** the same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead dwells in you it can quicken your mortal body making it an instrument of righteousness
 - a. 1st the Law of the Spirit of Life can overcome our flesh's previous bondage to Sin
 - b. 2nd the Law of the Spirit of Life can even literally touch our mortal bodies with healing power
 - c. 3rd the Law of the Spirit of Life is a pledge of our final resurrection when these mortal bodies become immortal
3. **Romans 8.12-13** Paul exhorts the Romans with brotherly love as "**his brothers**" to surrender self to **live** according to the Spirit **as debtors to God** for so freely giving to them His Holiness even while they may be only learning how to walk in this new way by the Spirit
 - a. indebted to Christ for this powerful gift of "**the Spirit**" that gives His **life** within **to glorify God**
 - b. "IF" = we have a part: "**if you by the Spirit** put to death the deeds of the body you will **live**"

Practical Living by the Law of the Spirit of Life

The Law of the Spirit of Life is a natural law experienced when we surrender to its power

1. Our soul is strong and that creates problems as a christian
 - a. Our **will** power is stubborn so we keep trying to do right but the Law of Sin is stronger
 - b. Our **emotions** may be strong so we ‘try’ to keep loving Him by tears and promises but eventually we become hypocrites pretending with an insincere love
 - c. Our strong **mind** logically **decides** to study the Bible, read books and learn doctrines until we are deceived into thinking our ‘knowledge’ is our “experience”
2. The Law of life in Christ Jesus is a ‘natural law’ that acts simply by our submission to it and without our trying:
 - a. the **will** may intend to pray often but the Law of life has a natural desire to pray
 - b. the **mind** determines to read the ‘letter’ of the Bible but the Law of life within has a natural hunger to seek the ‘spirit rema’ of Christ within the Bible
 - c. the **emotions** try to summon brotherly love for unlovely people but the Law of the Spirit sheds forth the love of God from our hearts by the Holy Spirit (Rom.5.5)
3. “Jesus said, “**Behold the birds... Consider the lilies**”. If we could ask the birds whether they were not afraid of the law of gravity, how would they reply? They would say: ‘We never heard the name of Newton. We know nothing about his law. We fly because it is the law of our life to fly.’ W.Nee

Practical Living by the Law of the Spirit of Life

The Men and Women of God in the Bible who went through this sanctifying process by the Spirit all have one thing in common: Self decrease takes years

1. Even after reading of this process in Rom 7-8 we still tend to rationalize that we are not as deceitful as Jacob, as proud as Joseph, as stubborn as Moses, as lustful as David, as unfaithful as Jonah, as patriotic as Isaiah, as self confident as Job or as self righteous as Paul
2. The progress of our sanctification is determined by the cross' work
3. Only the Spirit of God can reveal to us the problems and worthlessness of our flesh through circumstances involving suffering



Romans 8.14-30: Holy Spirit Bringing Many Sons to Glory

Rom 8.14-16 For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, “Abba! Father!” The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God...

Paul now looks up from sanctification's earthly battle to View the Future Family Prospects

1. Paul now reveals to his ‘brethren’ that the Holy Spirit keeps us throughout the sanctifying process where children mature into ‘sons’
 - a. **Holy Spirit our Leader:** in this passage there is a distinction made between our presently being His “**children**”(teknon in Gk.) in v.16 and the end goal of our becoming mature “**sons**” (huios in Gk) in v.14
 - b. **8.14** - the Spirit of God **leads** with inner signals as we learn to obey as “sons”
 - c. **8.15** -the Holy Spirit **breathes** His ‘spirit of adoption’ into our hearts which frees us from the fear of slavery where every step was being judged
 - d. **8.16** - the Holy Spirit **testifies** to the child of God by shedding abroad the Father’s love into the child’s spirit after which the child’s response is simply, “*Abba, Father*”
2. even his youngest child bears a “testimony” of the Father’s saving grace and love

Romans 8.14-30: Holy Spirit Bringing Many Sons to Glory

Rom 8.17-18 and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.
¶ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

Paul now looks up from sanctification's earthly battle to the Spirit's role in securing our Future Family Prospects

1. Paul's reveals that the Spirit of Life is bringing many sons to glory as He sanctifies
 - a. children become *heirs* when they reach maturity
 - b. our future hope is to be *heirs of God* as His sons
 - c. and this future is even brighter by the prospect of being "*fellow heirs with Christ*" our Elder Brother
2. again a conditional "*if we suffer with Him*" brings the cross before us again not in the internal battle for sanctification but now the outer suffering we bear sharing His testimony in a godless world
3. Paul again assumes his role as spiritual accountant as he "reckons" that any present sufferings (liabilities) will not even be worth mentioning when compared to the glory to be revealed (assets)

Rom 8.19 For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God.

Rom 8.19-23 Paul's gospel reveals even greater mystery behind our sanctification: Creation's glory is connected

1. **8.20-21** all creation is anxiously awaiting for the transformation to be completed where God's glorified sons are revealed
 - a. **Lost Eden:** Creation was deeply affected by the fall of mankind and through no fault of its own has had to suffer in its present bondage to corruption
 - b. **Millennium:** God's creation has hope since the Son of God's resurrection that as soon as the rest of God's sons are glorified creation will be set free to bloom as Eden
 - c. science can study creation now but has no idea of what it will become and what its new condition will be
2. But through the Word believers are able to peak into some of creation's glorious destiny recorded in such books as *Isaiah*, *Ezekiel*, *2 Peter* and *Revelation*

Rom 8.22-23 knowing this, that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. 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.

Rom 8.19-23 Paul says, “knowing,” we
Sympathize and join in with Creation’s groaning

I. **8.22-23** In the ancient world creation was animated and ‘heard’ by farmers and the people of the land: painful groans of childbirth; sighing in the trees; cries of hurt animals; sighs of death

a. But Creation is the mother of all living and groans in childbirth labor as the pain speaks of the nearness of the new day upon her

b. We groan because the Holy Spirit within has given us a taste of the first fruits of resurrection as we walk in the Spirit and now we join in the groaning awaiting our **full** “*adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.*”

Rom 8.24-25 For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he already sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it.

Rom 8.24-25 Paul defines our Hope as that which we have tasted but not yet fully seen as we live in a kingdom that is both 'now' and 'not yet'

1. **Rom 8.24-25** Even though our salvation is blessed now in Christ there is a future glory yet unfulfilled that causes us to long to see our Savior
 - a. From the moment we are saved by **faith**, **hope** is also born within by the Holy Spirit as we anticipate final glory
 - b. **Hope** therefore gives us two gifts: 1) perseverance and patience while we wait and 2) the continual eagerness maintained by the Spirit within until the Blessed Hope of His glorious coming
2. Groaning in birth pangs is a good sign His coming is near

Romans 8.14-30: Holy Spirit Bringing Many Sons to Glory

Rom 8.26-27 In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

The Holy Spirit comes alongside us in our weakness and ignorance of knowing the Will of God especially in our present suffering

1. **Rom 8.26-27** Just as Jesus showed us the Humanity of God's love the Spirit now shows divine sympathy by groaning together with us
2. Prayer too deep for words comes at the end of our understanding but continues by deep groans which the Spirit immediately attends to as of highest importance
3. In a mystical intercession our groans and the Spirit's are joined together into a powerful, intelligent prayer 'harmonizing' our groans
4. Meanwhile our patient Father who has been searching our hearts waiting to hear how He can help us receives the Spirit's "translation" of our prayer which now agrees with the Will of God and is answered immediately

Romans 8.14-30: Holy Spirit Bringing Many Sons to Glory

Rom 8.28-30 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.

The Holy Spirit reveals God's Eternal Plan

Rom. 8.28-30 Another “mystery of God” revealed in Christ the “New Creation”

1. Long before we were born we were already a part of a **predestined plan** for all to be “summed up” in Christ
2. **Goal:** predestined his children to be conformed to the image of Christ in order to reign with Him as ‘sons’ in glory
3. The Spirit is now ‘**engineering**’ every circumstance in the lives of those who love God toward that good goal
4. The predestined process of **God's eternal purpose:** foreknown to predestined to called to justified to glorified

Romans 8: Summary of Holy Spirit's Work

The Holy Spirit is gathering various elements into His New Creation

- 1. The Holy Spirit abides with us as He intercedes practically working out our sanctification into the “new creation” in union with Christ the first fruits of Glory**
- 2. The Spirit assures us we are in the Father's family by testifying to our spirit that we are children destined to become heirs and interpreting our “Abba's” back to the Father**
- 3. The Spirit pours out His Life strengthening our inner man and leading us by the Law of the Spirit of Life with the power to overcome our flesh**
- 4. The Spirit then encourages us to be faithful in suffering by revealing to us we have a great and vital part in the “new creation” including all creation being transformed**
- 5. Then the Spirit inwardly groans along with us and all creation in the labor pains of Hope and intercedes as we pray then interprets them according to the Will of God**
- 6. The Holy Spirit graciously reveals to us God's glorious predestined end**
 - a. Looking back we see that the Holy Spirit caused everything to work together for good in transforming us into the image of God's first born son**
 - b. Looking forward, the Holy Spirit reveals we were foreknown and are part of the Father's predestined plan**
 - c. Meanwhile in the present the Spirit keeps us from falling until He presents us faultless as we go from being called, justified, sanctified and glorified**



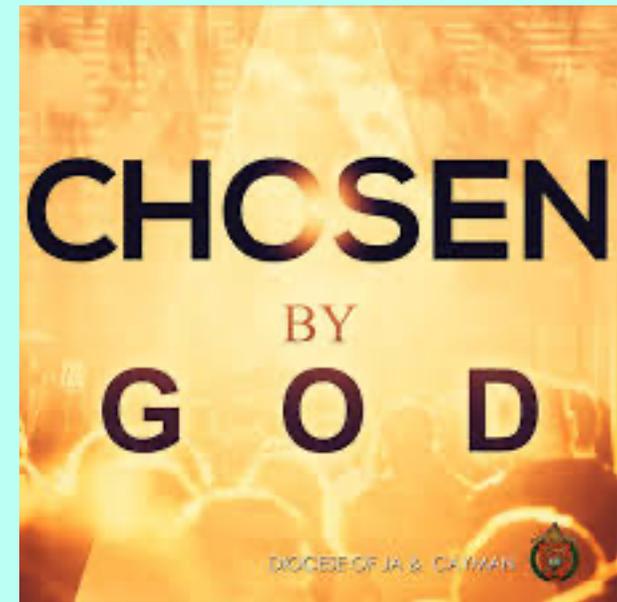
- three fragments for meditation from saints who've gone before

the mystery we can “know”

“But in all our weakness there is one thing we can know. Paul looks backward (or rather, upward) into eternity and sees the Throne, and the King with his sovereign will, and the lines of a perfect infallible plan and provision which is from that centre to infinity

Who are these saints? From one viewpoint they are simply sinners who’ve seen themselves and fled for safety... From another viewpoint, that of the Eternal Mind and Order, they are those whom, for reasons infinitely wise and just, but wholly hidden in Himself, the Lord has chosen to be His forever.”

Romans H.C.G. Moule

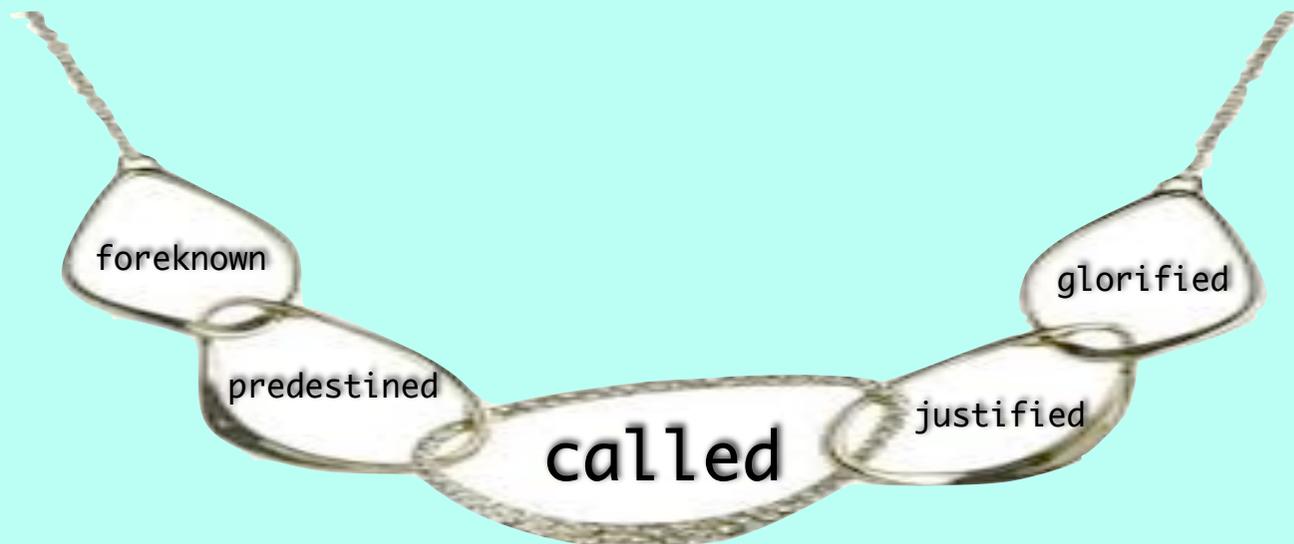


the mystery of eternity's plan

The mystery: Foreknown, Predestined, Called, Justified, Glorified are all past tense - already finished in Eternity

“We now are introduced to a definition of that purpose and are shown that a five-linked chain hangs down out of eternity, reaching us with the third link and taking us back into eternity”

“Romans” Donald Grey Barnhouse



the mystery of Sonship

“No one on earth has ever fathomed his own being. Until we die we remain to ourselves the deepest mystery. But this then is the glory that awaits us after dying- that the veil will be taken away from our face, and as in a clear mirror, God will show us our own being. Then only. Not before.

And herein is grace. If here on earth we were ever to have a sight of our being as we actually are, we would be terrified looking at ourselves. Even as a loving wife, hastening to the hospital to see her husband who had been wounded in battle - when she saw his misshapen, bandaged face, involuntarily recoiled, so would our soul shrink back from ourselves if we were to see in clearness our own being soiled by sin and enwrapped in grace.”

“And therefore Jesus tarries. And He will only let you see yourself when the latest trace of sin is gone and the last bandage has been removed and you can see yourself as a model of Christ’s redeeming love, altogether sound and altogether healed.

Then the mystery of your person falls away from before you. And God, who alone knows your being, because he himself has foreordained and created you and has kept you and has restored you, will then discover you to yourself, reveal your own being to you and in your own being, for God’s sake, make you rich.”

Paul's Epistle to the Romans

- next time: Rom 8
- 4. Rom 8.31-39 the Holy Spirit keeps the new eternal Covenant (Law): He promises to love and never let go until He glorifies Christ in us