

# Glorified in Christ

## Romans 8:12-30

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Part of Paul's Letter to the Romans Romans 8

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*There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.*

*—Romans 8:1 (ESV)*

**The person focused on the “flesh” is proud or jealous and focused on self, and this always leads to eternal death, for the flesh isn’t interested in the things of God.**

**The person focused on the “Spirit” is seeking God and His Will in order to experience the abundant life and peace God has always desired for us.**

*12So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. 13For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.*

*—Romans 8:12-13 (ESV)*

**To try to live for the “flesh” always leads to death, for it’s always opposed to the ways of God and therefore was never what we were created for.**

*14For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of*

*God. 15For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" 16The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.*

—Romans 8:14-17 (ESV)

**When Paul talks about being indebted, he means we are indebted to God, for when we choose to receive Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord, God adopts us into His family and gives us the spirit of sonship that enables us to cry out to God as our Father, our Daddy.**

**We have been given Christ's mission *and* this glorious legacy as God's children and heirs, co-heirs with Christ, as well as being His co-workers, in His world.**

*Then you will tell [Pharaoh], "This is what the LORD says: Israel is my firstborn son."*

—Exodus 4:22 (NLT)

**For those who first read these verses from Paul to the Romans in the Greek language, the words Paul used would have echoed to them passages from the Old Testament, particularly as it talked about the children of Israel traveling through the wilderness, after leaving Egypt, on their way to the Promised Land.**

**Instead of the pillars of cloud and fire to guide us, Christians are now given the Spirit Himself, as God's personal presence with us and within us.**

***The LORD:** "Only ask, and I will give you the nations as your inheritance, the whole earth as your possession."*

—Psalms 2:8 (NLT)

**God is offering "the whole earth," *all* of creation, to His people, His heirs, who are now Christians.**

**People often envision Heaven as "up there somewhere,"**

**but the Bible shows that the Promised Land is actually the new Heaven that comes down to earth.**

**For all God's good gifts, we will forever be in God's debt, and gratitude should therefore mark how every believer should live *each* day.**

*Jesus: ...My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine.*

—Matthew 26:39 (NLT)

*For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.*

—Romans 8:18 (ESV)

**Paul says this future “glory” that will be “revealed to us” far outweighs whatever “sufferings” we’re now experiencing, as bad as they may be.**

*The primary meanings of “glory” in this passage are, simultaneously, **the glorious presence of God himself dwelling within us by the spirit, and the wise, healing, reconciling rule of God’s people over the whole creation.** These two - God’s presence and human rule - are made for each other. They fit together.*

—N.T. Wright

*19For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. 20For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope 21that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. 22For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.*

—Romans 8:19-22 (ESV)

**In Genesis 1 God created human beings in His own image, and He gave us responsibility for caring for and stewarding**

## **all creation.**

*And God blessed [the male and female]. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”*

—Genesis 1:28 (ESV)

*17And to the man [the LORD God] said, “... the ground is cursed because of you. All your life you will struggle to scratch a living from it. 18It will grow thorns and thistles for you, though you will eat of its grains.”*

—Genesis 3:17-18 (NLT)

**All creation itself became enslaved to sin and death, just as we are and because of us.**

**Paul says “creation” is waiting for *our* “revealing,” when Jesus returns and not only are we healed and restored, but so will *all of Creation*.**

**As John shows us in Revelation, heaven is not some ethereal place somewhere else, but right here as this world is restored to all its glory.**

*1Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared. And the sea was also gone. 2And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. 3I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, “Look, God’s home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. 4He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever.”*

—Revelation 21:1-4 (NLT)

**We have assurance and faith that God will do for us and His creation all that He did for Jesus at Easter.**

*23And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. 24For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? 25But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.*

—Romans 8:23-25 (ESV)

**We depend on this “hope,” “what we do not see” but which “we wait for... with patience,” recognizing that to reach glory, we will, as we saw in vss. 17-18, endure degrees of suffering, as Jesus did.**

*26Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. 27And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.*

—Romans 8:26-27 (ESV)

**Like the Tabernacle in the wilderness or Jesus with his disciples, Paul seems to be saying that those of us who have the Spirit do experience suffering, but even more than that, we’re present in this world, right at those points of suffering, to bring the presence of God into suffering’s midst.**

**God is using us, in our suffering, to intercede for others who are suffering, even if we’re lost as to how to help - God’s Spirit isn’t lost.**

**This passage is about God’s Spirit not only intervening on our behalf, but also intervening on behalf of other people and even creation itself.**

**Here we see Paul clearly spelling out the purpose and calling of every Christ follower - not to be saved only for our own sakes, but as saved, redeemed persons, freed by Christ, inhabited by his Spirit, to stand in the midst of**

**suffering and hurt in order to intercede with the Father, even when we don't know how or what to do.**

*28And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. 29For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. 30And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.*

*—Romans 8:28-30 (ESV)*

**Through verses 26-27, we can “know” that God is working through His Spirit in those who love Him and are seeking His Will, to bring some kind of good out of any situation.**

**Paul affirms for us that our God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit - loves us and all His creation, and He has called us and justified us to share His love, that we and all of creation may be glorified for God's purposes!**

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**Next Week:** Romans 8:31-39