

Paul's letter to the church at Rome

Romans

Sunday, January 25th, 2009

Righteousness as the way Christians should live (6:1-8:39)

- 8:16-27, the Holy Spirit leads and motivates us to God's destiny for our lives
 - V.16: Is the Holy Spirit "he" or "it"? John 16:12-15
 - V.16: The testimony of 2 witnesses
 - The Holy Spirit testifies WITH our spirit that we are sons of God
 - Matt. 18:16, 2 Cor. 13:1, 1 John 5: 1-12
 - What is we struggle to keep believing that we are God's child...what if our heart condemns us? (Greek: *kat-ag-in-o'-sko*, see Gal. 2:11, meaning to blame, accuse, condemn)...1 John 3:16-24..."God is greater than our heart".
 - Compare 'adoption' in V.15 to being 'children' in V.16. It's possible that adopted children would not receive an inheritance, but children certainly are "heirs" (Deut 32:7-10)
- 8:16-27, the Holy Spirit leads and motivates us to God's destiny for our lives
 - V.17: "heirs of God,"...God's oath, Heb.6:13-20
 - V.18: Suffering may occur, but it's not to be compared to the gain of our inheritance
 - V.19-22: The creation is waiting for the end of the age, so it can end it's "suffering"...man's sin causes harm to the earth/creation...the whole creation has been "groaning" (Greek is *soos-ten-ad'-zo*, to groan together). The context of v.22 is child-birth.
 - V.23: We also "groan" (Greek is *sten-ad'-zo*, to sigh (Mark 7:34) or groan alone)...see 2 Cor. 5:1-5
- 8:26: The 'intercession' and 'groaning' of the Holy Spirit
 - "Likewise"...in the same way that creation groans and believers groan, the Spirit also groans when He is helping us with our weaknesses
 - When we don't know what to pray for, the Spirit intercedes for us
 - Greek is **hoop-er-en-toong-khan**...compound word was used to describe petitioning the king
 - The Spirit talks to God with "groans" that words cannot express
- 8:27: When we pray in the Spirit, the Holy Spirit prays for us according to the will of God
- 8:16-27, the Holy Spirit leads and motivates us to God's destiny for our lives
 - 8:28: Even though man is a 'free agent', nevertheless God "makes all things work together for good according to His purpose"
 - 8:29-30...foreknowledge and predestination
 - Foreknowledge speaks to God's awareness and plan...Acts 2:22-23
 - Predestination speaks to God's appointments and decrees
 - Keep the scripture in context
 - V.28: according to the purpose of God (foreknowledge)
 - V.30: the specific actions of God to accomplish His purpose (predestined)
 - Believers are 'called', 'justified', and 'glorified'...note glorified is stated as a past tense (already done)
- 8:31: "What do you have to say about what I've just told you"?
 - An answer to 8:12-30
 - We are heirs...we are joint-heirs...the Holy Spirit prays for us...we're waiting for our redemption...we have been called, justified, and glorified
- 8:33-34...the setting is in court
 - Who will testify against us??
 - The Holy Spirit is our witness...Jesus is our attorney (1 John 2:1)...and God is the judge!
- 8:35-38...we cannot be separated from Christ
 - V.35 Greek for 'separate' is *kho-rid'-zo* meaning to put space between
 - Was used to describe divorce
 - Sometimes people think Christ will divorce them like their spouse did. We MUST see God as He is...Numbers 23:19, "God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?"
 - V.37 "Nay"...to the contrary, NOTHING shall separate us from the love of God