

Sanctification and GLORY ... Romans 8:12-30 ... July 5th, 2015

New LIFE Fellowship, Johns Island, SC

Romans 8:12-30

¹² So then, brothers, we are debtors, **not** to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. ¹³ For 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**. ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵ For 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!” ¹⁶ The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs — heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, **PROVIDED** that we suffer with Him **IN ORDER** that we may also be **GLORIFIED** with Him.

¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the **GLORY** that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with **eager longing** for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the **GLORY** of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. ²³ And 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. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶ Likewise 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. ²⁷ And 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. ²⁸ **And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose.** ²⁹ For those whom He foreknew He also predestined to be **conformed to the image of his Son**, in order that He (i.e.: Jesus) might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰ And those whom He (i.e.: God the Father) predestined He also called, and those whom He called He also justified, and those whom He justified He also **GLORIFIED**.

God's Goal for our LIFE in Christ is **NOT** that we should be
Happy, Comfortable, Wealthy in this world's possessions and finances
Healthy (Physically – although that is common sense, etc.)
Be well accepted by those around you ... (to belong to the "in crowd") ... etc. .etc...

God's Goal in our lives is

His Holiness (Sanctification ... making us Holy, just as Christ is Holy)

His Righteousness (being Right with God, thinking Right, Living Right, Right attitudes)
(right → correct ... being in a Correct, Perfectly Aligned Relationship with God, etc.)

His Image and Likeness (to be like Christ)

(us being Conformed into the Image and Likeness of Christ)

His **Glory** in Us, Revealed when Christ is Reveal in all of His Glory (Colossians 3:1-4)

(we are His Glory, and He is our Glory)

Colossians 3:1-4: Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, **keep seeking the things** above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. ³ For you have died and **your life is hidden with Christ in God.** ⁴ When Christ, **WHO IS OUR LIFE**, is **revealed**, then you **also** will be **revealed WITH HIM IN GLORY.**

God wants us to be fully formed and conformed into being fully like Christ, the humanity of Christ (in His Moral Attributes, etc... Righteousness and Holiness) → into His Image and Likeness

Yes, it is NICE TO HAVE happiness, comfort, safety, etc... but never at the cost of God's Righteousness, Holiness, and the Approval of God. We are to COOPERATE with God in our Holiness, in our Sanctification with God.

Our Sanctification:

1. This is an **INTERNAL** Affect by God's Holy Spirit in our Heart, Spirit, Mind and Soul
When we became Born Again in Christ, God's Spirit came to live in our hearts. We became united with God the Father, in Christ, via His indwelling Holy Spirit. God's Holy Spirit took up residence in us, united with His Spirit with our spirit. Our redeemed human spirit is now UNITED with God's Holy Spirit. He gave us the Mind of Christ, a brand new Mind (new attitudes and thinking and ways of thinking). He gave us a brand new heart, in Christ. He redeemed us and renewed us INTERNALLY, in our Internal Being of who we really are. He did not redeem our Body yet (Romans 8:18-24)

When the Holy Spirit came into us, He caused us to be Born Again in Christ (new heart, new mind, redeemed our spirit, restored the Image and Likeness of God in us). We are, now, in Relationship with God – deep contact relationship: Spirit to spirit, Mind to mind, Heart to heart, Being to being. Thus, God, the Holy Spirit can change us, affect us, transform us. God, in the majority of cases, uses our Suffering (persecution, tribulation, trials, including human [normal every-day sufferings and difficulties, as well] in the present world, to accomplish much of His Sanctification Progress in us. But, we play a role in this Sanctification Process... it is not all the Holy Spirit ... we have a role to play.

2. It is a Cooperative Effort ...

Notice in Romans 8:12-30 and in many of the other passages in the New Testament, including Colossians 3:1-4 ... the Conditional words, such as “IF” and “KEEP Seeking” and other kinds of conditions like that. These words and phrases all indicate a Cooperative Effort on our Part. There is a Part, a Role that we play in the rate by which we are Sanctified. That is, there is God’s Part in the equation (see #1 above) and then there is our Part ... Trust and Obey. When we Trust Him and then subsequently Respond to Him in Obedience, based upon His Word, based upon the Prompting Encouragement of His Holy Spirit, we Grow in Him, each time we obey Him. We grow just a little bit more in Christ. It is based upon a Loving & Trusting Response to Him. We Respond by Obeying Him because of His Love for us ... and we display our love back to Him by Trusting in Him and Obeying Him, because we are In-Love with Him. It takes courage to Trust & Obey Him. But, if we are In-Love with Him, it is so much easier to Trust and Obey Him.

God, the Holy Spirit, He is there to help us... → **Romans 8:26-28**

²⁶ Likewise 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. ²⁷ And 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. ²⁸ And we know that for those who love God ALL things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose.

This implies that we are **actively engaged** in Trusting and Obeying Him ... in thick of things, in the battle for the Gospel of Christ, etc. It means that these Christians are Praying. It means that these Christians are engaged with the Gospel of Christ with those around them, otherwise why would God seek to encourage them in vs 28?

Taken in context from the previous verses, we know that God is seeking to help these Christians stand for Christ, not just encourage them because they suffered some loss of comfort, safety, and/or possession/finances ... or some other kind of earthly thing. In context and the parallel passages we looked at in 1 Peter, the suffering mentioned in this passage relates to the suffering Christians would endure if they are Spreading the Gospel to the lost and openly/publicly supporting God’s Holy Word and His Righteous Standards in the sight of the lost, etc. (not arrogantly, but gently and respectfully, etc.)

3. To God – it has already taken place, in one sense, according to His Perspective: This is for us ... to give us Great Comfort and HOPE for His Return ... not to start a theological argument. God is Outside of Time ... and also within Time ...

In Romans 8:29-30 - ²⁹ For those whom He FOREKNEW He

also PREDESTINED to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that He (i.e.: Jesus) might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰ And those whom He (i.e.: God the Father) **predestined He also called**, and those whom He called He also **justified**, and those whom He **justified He also GLORIFIED**.

God, the Father, wants His children to be Glorified together with His Son, Jesus Christ. This is His Predestined Goal, the End-Game is to see us there in Glory with Jesus. This is **God’s Eternal, OUTSIDE OF TIME, Perspective**. It is a summation. It implies God’s Foreknowledge and Predestination of those who

would be in Christ. This does not imply that we don't need to Spread the Gospel. It is by lost sinners hearing the Gospel of Christ, Repenting and Believing that they are saved. It is God's Ordained way, His Predestined Way, of Saving the Lost. We are not robots, and that is not the focus here ... to stir up some theological controversy ... but to just state the facts.

God, By His Foreknowledge, According to His ForeKnowledge Predestined Those whom He ForeKnew. It is not like the way we think, in fact we cannot even image or think in this way. We are creatures of Time, God is not. In fact God created time (read Genesis 1:1 .. "In the Beginning God created ...")

This passage mentions God's **Foreknowledge** ("those whom He foreknew He also predestined" Romans 8:29) relates **directly** to God's Election and Predestination of His children in Christ ("those He predestined" Romans 8:30). These deep theological concepts are mentioned as fact, but not fully explained in Scripture. It is very complicated, more complicated than human comprehension, this side of eternity for us. Another passage, also mentions God's choosing or "election" of His children → **1 Peter 1:1-2** → **Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ: To those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, WHO are CHOSEN (the ELECT) ² ACCORDING TO THE FOREKNOWLEDGE OF God the Father, by the SANCTIFYING work of the Spirit, to OBEY Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His Blood: May GRACE and peace be yours in the fullest measure.**

I know there are some who will argue with me, but the Greek is pretty clear here, God's Children are Chosen **ACCORDING to God's Foreknowledge**. We see this FACT in this passage and in Romans 8:29-30 passage ... both focus on God's Foreknowledge is the **BASIS** for His Election and Predestination, based upon the clear or plain reading of Scripture. But, before you think you know how God does this, **BEWARE** ... this is God's Work, based upon His Infinite Knowledge of Everything and Anything (Past, Present and Future) **before** "time" even existed, even before He created anything. Let's do this, let's just **accept the Facts** about this amazing Grace of God and show Him Praise and Thanksgiving because of His Great Love, Mercy, and Grace in His Election and Predestination.

HIS Goal is make me and you, like Jesus Christ, in every way, within all that we are ... to transform us ... God sees you and me just as Christ is NOW in Heaven in Glory ... and in the Full Future Glory. That is ONE Aspect or Perspective of How God sees us and relates to us. He is also well aware of who we are now, and how we are now ... and He is, now, in Time, taking steps to change us, to transform us into Christ's likeness ... today, even now.

This should cause us to **REST** in Him, fall in **LOVE** with Him More, to **Thank** Him MORE, to **Praise** Him MORE, to **TRUST** Him MORE to **Obey** Him More, to **Pray** for the Lost to be Saved, MORE ... to **Share** the Gospel with the Lost, **MORE**