

THE BOOK OF ROMANS



10. Living as God' Children

Introduction

Chapter 8 of Romans begins with the words, “There is now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus.” Isn’t that encouraging? We may have failed, but we can return to the Lord, knowing that we are not condemned, but free to live in the power of the Spirit. Let’s turn back to Romans 8 to see how the Holy Spirit helps us.

Scripture Reading: Romans 8:17-27

1. Suffering of Creation v17-27

- ☉ What will we share in now according to Romans 8:17-18? What do we have to look forward to in the future?

(Paul says that we will share in the suffering of Christ now, but in the future we will share his glory. He goes on to speak about this in the rest of the chapter.)

- ☉ How has man’s sin affected the world in the past, and how is affecting the world right now? Romans 8:20, Genesis 3:17-19

- ☉ What is God’s purpose for the earth according to verse 21? What do you think this means?

(There will be a time when the earth is liberated from this bondage and it will be renewed. The Bible speaks of a period of 1000 years when Christ will reign on earth and then it speaks of a new heaven and a new earth. God’s purposes for this earth are not over. He has some wonderful things in store for it!)

2. Suffering of Children of God v23-27

The Apostle Paul has shown that man’s sin has affected all of creation. Now he goes on to say that we all face suffering, but in the midst of this there is hope and help.

- ☉ The word ‘groan’ is used 3 times in these verses. What things are described as ‘groaning’? v22, 23, 26

(It says that creation groans, so does the Holy Spirit and so do we. This word is also used when the children of Israel cried out to God because of the bondage they experienced in Egypt.)

- ☉ What is the hope we have as we go through suffering? What does this mean? Romans 8:23

(Our hope is that our bodies will be redeemed. This is speaking of the time when we will be changed and receive our new resurrection body.)

- ☉ Why do we need the help of the Holy Spirit and how does he help us according to verses 26 and 27?

(We need his help because we are weak and we don't know what to pray for. Also we do not know God's will. The Holy Spirit helps us to pray without words we understand, as he knows the mind of God.)

- ☪ Share a time when you have experienced the help of the Holy Spirit to pray in a way that these verses describe.

Conclusion

We live in a world affected by sin and at times we struggle with our sinful nature. However we have a blessed hope that one day we will be freed from this body and receive a new one. This hope is not just for the future, but changes our life today! The Holy Spirit, who now lives within us, is interceding for us to help us in our times of need. Hallelujah!

