

THE SECURITY OF YOUR SALVATION (PT 3): THE HOPE OF BEING A CHILD OF GOD

Romans 8:18-30

I. Hope in the Midst of Suffering (Vs. 18-25)

Take a moment and contemplate what is being said here. Your present sufferings may be excruciatingly painful. These trials you carry are cross-shaped (cf. Matt. 16:18). But they are a mere trifle in comparison with what God has in store for you. If we find that difficult to believe, it is because our view of glory is out of focus. Spiritual shortsightedness robs us of gospel comfort that God desires us to enjoy.

- Derek W.H. Thomas. How the Gospel Brings Us All the Way Home

Stuart Oylott- "Our Present Sufferings are like an ugly porch which leads to the threshold of an unspeakably beautiful mansion."

This is our calling: to gaze deliberately and see things as they will be rather than as they are.

- Derek W.H. Thomas.

Vs. 22- Creation Groans

Vs. 23- We Groan

But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. **But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead,** the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:13-23 ESV)

Stuart Olyott: "Let's put it another way. We have learned that the Spirit within us assures us of our adoption. His very residence within us causes us to long earnestly for the day when our adoption will be openly declared...Our inward longing, inspired by the Spirit, is in fact a guarantee that that day will certainly come...In the New Testament, the word 'hope' does not mean a fond wish but an absolute certainty."

II. The Help that accompanies being a child of God (Vs. 26-27)

Vs. 26- The Spirit Groans

III. The Rest that accompanies being a child of God (Vs. 28-30)

"Why is the subject of election, or predestination, so divisive? Why is it that whenever the terms are brought up in conversation, people move to other parts of the room? If you ever want to clear a room in a hurry, just announce a discussion of predestination! We can be fairly certain that most of the passages addressed in this chapter are not underlined in most believers' Bibles, yet they deal with one of the most prominent themes running from Genesis to Revelation. You see, we can talk about grace, sing about grace, preach about grace, just so long as we do not get too close to it. Election is too close. When we give in to election, we finally give up on ourselves in the matter of salvation. This doctrine takes grace to its logical conclusion: if God saves me without my works, then he must choose me apart from them, too."

- Michael Horton, Putting Amazing Back Into Grace

"We would all be running from God, trying to cover up our guilt and shame, but God determined to make us his own possession. If we become God's children, it will be only because he "in love . . . predestined us to be adopted as his sons" (Eph. 1: 4– 5). God is not in the business of helping us save ourselves. "Salvation comes from the Lord" (Jonah 2: 9). And yet, this doctrine raises a lot of questions and objections. I have often thought that one good defense for the inspiration of Scripture is the doctrine of election, for no mortal man or woman could have invented an idea that so glorifies God and so humbles the human ego." – Michael Horton

Discussion Groups

1. How does the picture of glory being the backdrop for suffering give you hope?

2. How has “spiritual short-sightedness” robbed you of “gospel comfort”?

3. What makes you “groan” for Jesus’ return? How does the picture of the Holy Spirit interceding give you confidence when you struggle with prayer?

4. How has the ordo-salutis (Vs. 29-30) been a “pillow” for your head in difficult moments? How has God’s sovereignty bolstered you when you felt like giving up?

5. How does “the good” (being conformed to the image of Christ) in verse 28, along with Philippians 1:6, help you understand the role of suffering in your life?
