

Living With Renewed Hope³

January 21, 2024

Scripture Text: Romans 8:20-25 ESV **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 first fruits 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.

VERSE 20 *For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope*

When Adam and Eve sinned against God, the Garden of Eden was no longer a sanctuary where they had a personal and intimate relationship with Him. They came under condemnation, the curse of death, pain in childbearing, banishment from Eden and the earth would be subject to calamities.

The earth giving itself to futility meant that it would not yield itself to its full potential in its natural resources. Man would have to work hard trying to exist and to reap the resources from the earth.

VERSE 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.*

Creation suffers because of sin and the wickedness of man's disregard for the care and conservation of its resources. The creation yearns for its former freedom and glory that God originally bestowed before sin entered the world. You can see, there is a parallel experience between creation and the children of God. When man sinned it also affected the entire world.... everything from plants to animals, and from the environment to the heavens.

Nothing escaped the ripple effects of that one sin which brought the great distress of habitual sin, corruption and death. Even though Jesus' sacrificial death, burial and resurrection saved our souls... our bodies are yet to be redeemed from sickness, death and decay.

VERSE 22 *For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.*

Creation is groaning (anxiously anticipating) its full potential. If we remember, sin disrupted and diverted man from living forever in a sinless and incorruptible world. Before sin everything that God had created, the heavens above, earth beneath, man and woman were in complete harmonic balance with Him.

VERSE 23 *And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.*

When we have received Christ as our Lord and Savior and sealed by the promised Holy Spirit the first fruits is a guarantee of attaining a greater glory {the redemption of our bodies to live eternally with Him}. **Galatians 5:23-24 NIV** *22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.*

We were originally created for a heavenly state of being for eternity and we yearn to live in God's Holy presence. **Philippians 3:20-21 NIV** *20 But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.*

VERSE 24 *For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees?*

When we heard the gospel, it brought us hope. In addition, to the Holy Spirit convicting our hearts, we believed that Jesus died for our sins to save from death, Hell and the grave. If we were not sinners destined to hell and eternal separation from God there would be no need for hope. We look forward with hope because we believe the truth of the Gospel.

Jesus Christ has given us a promise of preparing a place for us **John 14:3 NJKV** *And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.*

VERSE 25 *But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.*

Despite all the calamity in the world during the last days before Christ returns, we live with renewed hope. We are witnessing many signs that point to Christ return renewing our hope in His promise. We live with a renewed hope during our sickness and grief. We live with a renewed hope with those who have preceded us in Heaven. We live with a renewed hope beyond who's sitting on the throne in the White House or controlling the senate or the House of Representatives.

We know that there will never be unity among men who are void of the Holy Spirit's conviction to be truth tellers. We wait expectantly with eternity in view each day to meet the Lord in the air.

1 Thessalonians 4:15-17 NKJV *15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus, we shall always be with the Lord.*

Applications:

Without God's prospective for us, we live in the valley of the shadow of death. In Christ we have been given the promise of attaining an eternal hope.