

Liberty in Christ Jesus

Romans 8:18-30

18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. 19 For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits 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 because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the **glorious liberty of the children of God**. 22 For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. 23 Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. 24 For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.

26 Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. 27 Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. 29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

From Suffering to Glory: That is the title of our passage of Scripture today that was on Biblegateway.com where I copied and pasted it into this message. From suffering to glory. My Bible, being a Scofield Study Bible, entitled our passage of Scripture as "The Glorious Deliverance Ahead." That is similar to the "suffering to glory" without mentioning the suffering. But indeed, we all know that we are to suffer on this earth. Yet I've simply titled this message, "Liberty in Christ Jesus."

What that means with those three different titles to our passage of Scripture is that yes, we will suffer until we reach the other side of His Glory, when we see Jesus face to face, and that we will be delivered from where we are in this world, to be in His Glory, but... we can find the liberty in Christ Jesus even today, in whatever state we are presently in, no matter what the circumstances are to which we

are presently dealing with, and that we don't have to wait to find the rest in the glorious liberty of being a child of God, that today is the day of salvation, that we can have victory in Christ Jesus, that whether well fed or hungry, living in plenty or in want, whether in spiritual warfare, or whether in times where we feel like we're all alone, that we can be more than conquerors through Christ who gives us strength, that no weapon formed against us shall prosper, that Jesus will carry out to completion the work that He has begun in us, and that it doesn't matter if the whole world collapses around us, that He is our Shield and our Fortress, He is our Deliverer, and that truly all things do indeed work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose! It is guaranteed that no one wants you to overcome more than Jesus does. He says in our passage of Scripture that we many times don't even know what to pray for, that He is interceding for us, that He will make all things work together for our good, and that "whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified." Do you hear Jesus calling? Yes, He is calling on us today, to know of the liberty that we can have in resting in Him in His glorious liberty to be His child of God.

Liberty in Christ Jesus!

This being July 4, Independence Day, in this great nation of the United States of America, leads one to ponder and even examine what it means to be free, and then to consider what Jesus stated in **John 8:36**, "**Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.**" So which is it you may ask. Are we free in this nation just because we are told we are free because our forefathers signed a piece of paper back in 1776 saying that we are no longer under the tyranny of the rule of the King of England. After all, we pay crazy prices for food, clothing, and shelter these days, we pay taxes upon taxes upon taxes (despite the law saying that double taxation is not lawful), those who have children either have to choose to somehow make it work by educating your own children or you have to spend good money sending them to a private school, or you are left with sending them to indoctrination camps, er...I mean public schools, where they essentially teach the children that God doesn't matter, you're ok to do whatever satisfies your flesh, and only their agenda and opinions matter; in other words if you are a Christian, your opinion doesn't matter. That is where not only our public school system is but where our country has been heading, and it is where we are now.

So are we really free at all? If you don't pay your property tax they take away your home. If you don't have your vehicle registered, and in some states insured, you can't drive it. Yet look at the freedom that we do have. Here we are today, able to gather together and worship God Almighty and share in the fellowship of Christ without any public officials saying we can't. Nevertheless, whether we

consider ourselves free anymore as a citizen of these United States of America, Jesus said, "**if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.**"

So how does what Jesus say about being free indeed complement the passage of Scripture that we have today that says, "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation [that means us] was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God?"

We can go back to the book of Genesis, in the garden of Eden, when Eve ate of the forbidden fruit and she then gave to her husband Adam and he ate of it as well; that is when sin entered into this world. **Genesis 3:16-19**, "To the woman God said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you."

Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the herb of the field. In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; For dust you are, and to dust you shall return." We have all been therefore born into a fallen world that was cursed by God and we were born into this world with a sin nature, that as **Romans 3:23** states, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." It is then not only guaranteed that we are all to suffer in this corrupted world but we are all guaranteed to have sinned against God and His perfect ways and His commandments. How sad it is that God's ten commandments have been removed from the public schools and other public places all due to what is stated as being the separation of church and state. How can anyone think that this country or any country can do well and be blessed by God without acknowledging our Creator, the Maker of all things, the sustainer of all things, of which whom we would not even exist without His desire for us to be here. We, that is those here today, we may not feel like we can do a whole lot for this country or our community or even in our nearby surroundings, but God tells us that He has put us on this earth to first of all, recognize that He has provided a way to reconcile us to God in our sin against Him. Along with the curse that Adam and Eve received from sinning against God, to which fell upon all of mankind, God also cursed the serpent, Satan the devil, to where He said that He (being Jesus) would bruise His head (Satan's head) and that he (being Satan) would bruise His

heel (Jesus' heel). Glory to God, Jesus did more than just bruise the head of Satan, Jesus completely defeated Him by raising from the dead, overcoming death. It is first for us to know and believe that Jesus died on the cross for our sins, shedding His blood for the remission of sins, and then raising from the dead on the third day, conquering death so that for all who will believe in Him will be saved and raise the dead as well unto everlasting life in His eternal and glorious kingdom. That right there should free up the burden within one's soul to know that our present sufferings that we must endure on this earth is not worthy of being compared, it's not even imaginable the vast difference that we will experience when His glory is revealed in us, once we meet Him on the other side.

Secondly we can find the glorious liberty at being a child of God by knowing that His Word says in Ephesians 2:10, "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." Why are we still here on this wretched earth, even after we have accepted Christ? Wouldn't it be great if once we accepted Christ as our Savior we were whisked away into His heavenly kingdom? No, it wouldn't. Look around at your surroundings, consider the people in your community, those in your family who haven't come to the knowledge yet of the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ. To those who have found the liberty in Christ Jesus, do you not want it for them also? God does. His Word says that He desires for none to perish but for all to come to the knowledge of the truth. To do the work of our Father, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is then to share with others the good news that we have in Jesus. That means for us to love others as Christ loved us that while we were still sinners Christ died for us. You never know when God will get ahold of someone's heart. I know of, and perhaps some of you do too, people who you would never suspect as ever coming to the saving grace of Jesus. How great is the love of God! He wants us to share the good news. He wants us to be a walking testimony of His abundant mercies and grace. As His Word says that "the goodness of God brings about repentance." Just before that Scripture in Ephesians 2, verses 8-9 it says, "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast." Those good works are the work that God is doing in us. He saves us, He works in us His Righteousness, and **Jesus alone can set us free to where we can say that we are free indeed!**

The freedom that we are looking for is ultimately not of the world. The world has its own agenda, and it is not up to us to change the world. It is not up to us to try and change our community. It is not up to us to save anyone. Only God can do those things. It is only Jesus Himself who can bring someone to the understanding and belief that He is the Way, the only Way, the Truth, the only Truth, and the Life, the only Life and that there is no other name given among men

by which we must be saved. Jesus said in Luke 9:5, "As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." Jesus is no longer in the world, He is at the right hand of the Father and is interceding for us. (Romans 8:34) That means that we are His light now. We are the light of the world as Jesus said in Matthew 5:14. He then said in verse 16, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." We are still here to be the light of Jesus that shines through us to work in us to show others the light of the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

We find the glorious liberty in Jesus Christ through coming to the knowledge of the truth that He died on a cross for our sins, that there was a penalty that had to be paid for the sin that was against a perfect and Holy God and that only the Son of God could pay that price. We find the glorious liberty in Jesus knowing that it is He that works in us to will and to do according to His purpose, that we are His workmanship to do good works, that He will carry out to completion the work that He has begun in us, that we can really find the freedom in Christ Jesus when we just put our trust in Him. Once again, a passage I always go back to, and I hope you will too is Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths." What we are doing is shining the light of Jesus, sharing the love of Jesus, and telling others the gospel of Jesus Christ for **if Jesus sets you free you are free indeed!**