The Security of the Believer

Romans 8:23-30

Introduction:

Previously, we saw that the creation was involved in the fall. The vegetation and the animal kingdom, specifically. Creation was made for man and the key to the future of creation is the future of man. When the man, Adam, fell, creation fell (8:20).

So, creation is groaning because it does not measure up to that for which it was intended. So, it groans, so to speak!

I. The Groaning of the Present – 8:18-27

A. Groaning by the Creation – 8:18-22

(Last time)

B. Groaning by the Saints – 8:23-25

“Not only *that,* but we also, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the redemption of our body. For we were saved in this hope,”

Paul indicates that we are believers by the clause, “we, also, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit”,

Ephesian 1:13b-14a

“…you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession.”

Man’s soul has been redeemed; but his body, including his physical life, and the physical senses, are still subject to the fall. They must retrained by the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit with the believer’s cooperation. That will be completed at the redemption of purchased possession - the body.

2 Corinthians 1.22

“who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee” (A down payment)

Note: The down payment on car or a house is only a fraction of the full price. Therefore, the down payment {God living in us} is only a small part of the total price – (the total redemption).

How Great is that TOTAL REDEMPTION?

1. We are not there Yet – 8:24b

“but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees?”

Having God living in us to help us and pray for us, etc, is great; but there is more, much more to come!!

2. But “What we do see” Helps us to wait with Patience and Perseverance – 8:25

“But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for *it* with perseverance.”

C. Groaning by the Spirit – 8:26-27

1. We Need Help with our Prayers – 8:26a

“Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought,”

Note: The word “Himself” is correct. Some versions read “itself” That is correct, grammatically. But it is incorrect theologically.

2. The Holy Spirit Knows what we Need – 8:27

“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.”

The word “God,” in the New Testament, is a reference to God, the Father, unless the context indicates otherwise.

3. The Holy Spirit Prays for Us – 8:26b

“The Spirit Himself, makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.”

Note: This verse has nothing to do with “speaking with tongues.”

* The Spirit is doing the praying.
* These “groanings” cannot be uttered.

But, that, in itself, does not rule out “speaking in tongues.”

II. The Glory of the Future – 8:28-30

A. No Chance – 8:28-29

1. In our Daily Lives – 8:28

“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.”

We know - How do we know? -- The word is Οἴδαμεν > Οἴδα “intuitively”, though we may not know it experientially.

God has given us things that we enjoy every day: sun for warmth, oxygen to breath, and the list goes on and on. But there are the other kind. God allows, and sometimes causes things that seem bad to us, but, in the long-run, they are for our good and His glory.

Example: The dentist does a good thing when he does a root-canal. We learn that by experience also.

2. In our Salvation – 8:29-30

“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. Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.”

a. Foreknew,

“For whom He foreknew,”

But, the idea that God saw who was going to believe and chose them is not true. The word προγινώσκω means to know beforehand.

But with God as subject it means more than prescience, (know beforehand.) Also, it says whom not what He foreknew.

b. Predestined

“He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.”

Predestination is not primarily to a place but to condition of conformity to the image of Jesus Christ finally, completely and eternally.

c. Called – 8:30

“Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called;”

The step in the experience of the individual is the call. He is called by the Holy Spirit through the Word. The Word is not from an angel with a big horn but through believers who are prepared and empowered by the Holy Spirit through the current believers of the Church. They witness by their lives and their lips and they are promised reward for their labor.

d. Justified – 8:30

“whom He called, these He also justified;”

All of the called ones are justified, that is, they are declared righteous by God on the basis of the death of Christ on the cross to buy their redemption

e. Glorified – 8:30

“and whom He justified, these He also glorified”

Glorification is the end of the process of becoming like Jesus Christ. From the being foreknown to being glorified not one is lost. Everyone who is in the foreknown group is still there in the glorified group. How much more certain can it get. Not one bit.

Conclusion: