

THE HOLY SPIRIT'S MINISTRY

Rom. 8:16-28

Pt. 12

1. Paul takes us back to the days of the Flood (Rom. 8:18-19):
The fallen “sons of God” (Satan’s angels) intermingled with the fallen daughters of Adam (the son of God) (Gen. 5:1; Lk. 3:38) resulting in the “un-creation” of creation in the Flood and suffering has remained ever since (Gen. 6:1-4; Job 1:6).
2. In Rom. 8, the “sons of God” are no longer rebellious angels and sons and daughters of Adam, but believers created anew in Christ Jesus, who are brought into God’s household via the Spirit’s adoption of sonship.

3. Next Paul takes us back to the Fall (Rom. 8:20-21): Through the falls of Satan in the Heavens and Adam on Earth, the whole creation has been subjected to vanity
 - a. God subjected creation to vanity rather than completely destroying it, because He wanted to re-create the new universe through the instruments of two new groups of the “sons of God” (Israel and Body of Christ), who have ***freely*** chosen Him in faith, counteracting fallen angelic and humanity’s rejection of Him in unbelief (Rom. 1:18).
 - b. These are His great two Purposes
 1. The Body of Christ for the Heavens. (Rom. 8:28; Eph. 1:11; 3:11)
 2. The Nation of Israel for the Earth. (Eph. 1:10-11)

4. God has put creation under vanity not forever, but in Hope, until all things are put under Christ:
 - a. In relation to His Prophetic Program for the Nation of Israel (Heb. 2:5-8—oikoumene—inhabited earth)
 - b. In relation to the Body of Christ (Rom. 8:20; Eph. 1:20-22—heavenly places).

5. When this is fulfilled, the Heavens and the Earth, the universe, the whole creation, will be brought into the deliverance of the sons and daughters of God, who will reign over them, re-establishing God's Glory.

6. The whole creation groans in hope because it is in pangs of childbirth, in bondage to corruption, eagerly awaiting its deliverance into God's glorious liberty that is revealed in His sons and daughters. (8:22).

7. Believers likewise groan not because they are in bondage to corruption (Rom. 6 freed us from that) but because they have the first-fruits of the Spirit that brought them into the presence of the Father where we learn:
 - a. In Grace all that the Father is pleased to be towards us in Love.
 - b. The councils and will of the Father.

8. We appreciate that God hasn't abandoned us but that He is letting creation go on in vanity while He calls out a group of believing sons and daughters, who cry Abba Father, through whom He will restore creation to His Glory.

9. We groan because, having been brought into the Father's business, we recognize how far fallen creation is from God's ultimate plan for it.
 - a. We groan that that gap might be closed.
 - b. And what will close the gap is the bodily resurrection of the members of the Body of Christ.

10. In the present, we are brought into the Father's things in the midst of a fallen suffering creation, generating love for others that expresses itself as sorrow because we have the first-fruits of the Spirit, longing for our future bodily resurrection.

11. In the present, we long for the gap between the Father's will for creation and the current state of fallen creation to close, groaning for the future bodily resurrection of God's sons and daughters in the Body of Christ, through which He will deliver creation and establish His Glory.

12.If we are operating based on God and His Word, which the Holy Spirit teaches our inner person, this is “in hope” by faith in God and His Word and suffering and tribulations will result in Patience, Experience, Hope that flows out of Agape Love (Rom. 5:3-5).

13.If we are operating based on sight and external appearances, however, it is not “in hope” but by “faith” in the things of this world and suffering and tribulations will result in defeat and despair.

14 Rom. 8 groaning is completely different from Rom. 7 groaning.

15. Rom. 7 groaning is due to the believer who, in self-reliance under a law system, looks on himself rather than God, and thinks based on what he is in himself toward God, always resulting in defeat and despair.

--the result of this is always O wretched man that I am!
Carnal, sold under sin.

16. Rom. 8 groaning, however, is due to the believer who, in reliance on the Spirit under God's Pauline Grace System, looks at God through Christ and His Cross, and thinks based on what God is toward him in love, always resulting in peace and joy