**ROMANS 8**

**WE SHALL BE CHANGED**

**We ended our last study in Verses 14 & 15 of this chapter.**

14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

* **Chuck Smith** suggests that we ask these questions to verify that we ARE sons and daughters of God:
	+ Am I being led by the Spirit of God?
	+ Am I seeking to know AND follow the will of God?
	+ Am I waiting on the direction of the Holy Spirit?
	+ Am I resting my hope of salvation on ANYTHING other than my relationship with Jesus Christ?
		- Infant baptism is NOT enough! That is NOT relationship.
		- LISTEN: Being told by somebody that you are “all good” with God is NOT enough. Do not be one of those told by God, “I never knew you…” **MATTHEW 7:23**

15 For you did not receive the spirit ***(yoke)*** of bondage again to fear, ***(Galatians 5:1)*** but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."

* **NLT -** So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when He adopted you as His own children. Now we call Him, "Abba, Father." ***PAPA***
* **Chuck Smith** says that the Jews had a **LEGAL relationship** with God…
	+ We fulfill rules 1, 2 & 3… through ten…
	+ YOU give us our deserved salvation… No need to get emotional. DO YOUR JOB!
	+ Remember that Israel CHOSE this kind of legal contract. **DET. 30**
* **BUT…** Beloved… OUR covenant with God IS emotional in nature…
	+ HE SENT HIS SON TO DIE FOR US!
	+ So… We worship Him with all that we have!

Tommy Walker wrote:

**That's why we praise Him, that's why we sing
That's why we offer Him our everything
That's why we bow down and worship this King
'Cause He gave His everything**

* **GUZIK -** Man today, even outside the Old Covenant, is confronted with the choice. But the choice focuses first not on “Will I obey God or not?” but on “Will I trust in Jesus for my standing before God?”
* Jesus said, *He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters.* (Luk\_11:23) Jesus is still asking the question, *who do you say that I am* (Mat\_16:15), and our choice in answering that question determines our eternal destiny.

**BEARING WITNESS**

16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ***(Smith – the beautiful recognition that I am a child of God)***

* Have you heard someone say, “I bear witness to what you are saying?”
* Or perhaps, “I do NOT bear witness to what you are saying or doing.”?
	+ I liken it to this… Your phone rings, for some reason you answer it and the caller says I am calling about your car insurance… btw, this is your agent that you have had for 30 years, Mark So-and-so… You recognize the caller – You “bear witness” and take the call.
	+ Then the next day, your phone rings… The number on the read out looks familiar… You answer and a nice sounding voice begins to tell you that your car warranty is coming due and to please enter your Social Security and credit card number… YOU DO NOT BEAR WITNESS!
* Spiritually speaking, the Holy Spirit dwelling within us can and will give us the Holy “Hee-bee-jeevies” when someone approaches us with false doctrine… Think of the dressed in white pan-handlers at stores – **SCAM!**

**IN THE FAMILY AND SUFFERING FOR IT…**

17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, **if** indeed we suffer with *Him,* that we may also be glorified together.

* John MacArthur, in his book “Found: God’s Will” says that suffering for being a Christian is one of the proofs of being born again. This is true!
* Why would Christians suffer? Because the world hates us. Why? Because they hate the teachings of God the Son. Listen…
* **John 15:18-23** "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before *it hated* you. 19 If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. 20 Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also. 21 But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me. 22 If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. 23 He who hates Me hates My Father also.
* BUT… Suffering Christian, what a privilege to become “joint heirs” with Jesus Christ! Adopted by His Father says if we too were natural born kids.
* The song says: We couldn’t earn it, we don’t deserve it, still You give yourself away…

**FUTURE GLORY**

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.

* Paul, our Author was beaten, stoned, tortured, ship-wrecked and slapped around for his stand for the Gospel. Eventually, he was executed while imprisoned in Rome.
* All of Christ’ disciples were tortured for their faith. Only John survived his torture and died in Ephesus.
* We will probably NOT be tortured for our faith. But you might be called into HR. You might be ridiculed. AND as a result of our last election we might be facing some persecution as we teach the Bible verse by verse. It will probably become illegal to teach the first chapter of this Letter to the Romans ever again… But we will.

 **REAL ID**

19 For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. **NLT** - For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who His children really are.

***HOW WILL THIS HAPPEN? They will disappear!***

***1 Thessalonians 4:16-18***

* Another way this revelation will happen: Suffering.

**HOPE OF NATURE**

20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him **(God)** who subjected *it* in hope; 21 because the creation itself ***(Nature)*** also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption ***(The curse)*** into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

* Along with Adam & Eve and all mankind… Nature was also cursed by our sin.
* Even nature itself longs for how things USED to be…

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, ***(Like a mother giving birth)*** eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption ***(setting free)*** of our body.

* **CEV** - This means that our bodies will also be set free.
* The Apostle tells of this setting free of our mortal bodies in **1Corinthians 15:51** Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

In my quartet singing days we sang a song that went like this:

On the resurrection morning,

when the dead in Christ shall rise
I'll have a new body
Praise the Lord, I'll have a new life
Sewed in weakness, raised in power,

ready to live in Paradise
I'll have a new body
Praise the Lord,

I'll have a new life.

A new life without condemnation… without sin… Without doubt, and fear…

A life of fellowship and friendship with Papa… In HIS house… Living the life of a son, in God’s house in heaven.

There is no better peace than this… I invite you to enjoy this hope with me today.