



Sunday, February 28, 2011: All Things for Good

Scripture: Romans 8:11-39

Speaker: David Robinson

Sermon Notes:

1. This passage covers: our inheritance in Christ (v14-17); our groaning as we await redemption (v18-25); the Holy Spirit's intercession for us (v26-27); God's working out His good purposes in all our suffering (v28-30).
2. Just as Israel was led through the wilderness by the Spirit (see Isaiah 63:7-19), we too are led by the Spirit. We are sons of God, and heirs of God (Ex 4:22; Hosea 11:1-4).
3. We cry out to God in affectionate terms, "Abba Father", as dearly loved children.
4. Israel had a promised land, and we also have an inheritance: God promised the entire cosmos (Romans 4:13).
5. The new creation, the new heavens and the new earth, is secured for us by Christ.
6. The way to our inheritance is the path of suffering.
7. There is no share in the future glory that is ours in Christ, unless we also share in the suffering of Christ (vv.17, 35).
8. Paul is not only speaking of suffering for the gospel's sake (tribulation) but also of illness, pain, despair, strained relationships, the effects of sin and death in our lives.
9. There is no comparison with the glory that is going to be revealed to us (v18).
10. The 'hope of glory' is the overarching theme of this section (v18-30).
11. Before reflecting on our own experience of suffering, Paul notes that the whole creation is caught up in the suffering, the pain of how things are now in contrast to how they ought to be (v20-23).
12. As God's image bearers, we were created to rule over the creation on God's behalf (cf. Genesis 1, Psalm 8).
13. Because we have fallen, the creation is in subjection to futility (v. 20, Heb. 2:5-11).
14. The creation is eagerly longing for the time when human beings will be resurrected and glorified (v.22-23).

15. In hope we were saved; we hope for what we do not see with patience
16. 1 John 3:2. We're God's children; what we will be has not yet appeared.
17. Redeemed, glorified bodies are an aspect of the redemption.
18. We're children now, what we will be has not yet appeared. We will be like Jesus. We'll be conformed to the image of God's Son (v29)
19. The Spirit heightens our sensitivity to the brokenness in ourselves and in the world.
20. In times of anguish, suffering, despair, the Spirit helps us, shouldering our burdens with us.
21. The Spirit intercedes according to God's will on our behalf because we don't know how we ought to pray (v27).
22. Christ is also interceding on our behalf at God's right hand (v.34).
23. The Spirit is in our heart interceding for us, and we are in God, with Christ, who is also interceding for us (see Colossians 3:1-4).
24. We ought never to be presumptuous in prayer in the context of the presence of God.
25. God sovereignly orders all things for good, even suffering, despair, opposition.
26. What is the good God intends for us in Romans 8? It is God's purpose to conform us to the image of God's son.
27. Whom God foreknew, He predestined, called, justified, and glorified. God's call is irrevocable (Rom. 11:29).
28. Justification means that the garment of sin is removed and the garment of Christ's righteousness is put in its place.
29. Predestination can be summed up this way: It is not that we loved God but that He loved us, before the foundation of the world.

Application

1. Memorize Romans 8.
2. Am I worried and afraid?
3. If God is for us, who can be against us?
4. How can I comfort my brothers and sisters with God's comfort? (See 2 Corinthians 1:1-7)
5. How did Jesus prepare Peter to strengthen his brothers? (See Luke 22:31-32)
6. How should it influence our prayers to know that the Spirit is interceding on our behalf?