

Romans 8:16–18

¹⁶ The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,
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.
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.

An Inheritance ***Romans 8:16-18***

INTRO:

When we come to this discussion of the inheritance God has for us, I think of the passage in **Ephesians 3:17–19**. *“That Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge.”* We are trying to wrap our minds around something that in many ways goes far beyond our knowledge. But if we are going to see the reality of **Romans 8:18**, (*“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”*) we must have a concept of our inheritance that far exceeds the pain of our suffering.

I. The Inheritance (verses 16-17)

II. The Suffering (verse 17b)

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Romans 8:16–17 *“The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 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.”*

A. When we left off with Paul’s great statement of our assurance of our being children of God. In **verse 17** Paul adds to the implication of our being children of God. *“And if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ,”*

B. What is this inheritance? There is much speculation about what this actually means. The problem with speculating is that we speculate with our human finite minds. In a real sense just as we cannot begin to fully comprehend the infinite

eternal God in three persons, we will never be able to get our minds around the wonders of eternity. There are some things the Bible tells us clearly the inheritance involves.

1. The first place I want to take you is **1 Peter 1:3-5**.

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”

Our inheritance is in heaven. It is incorruptible. It cannot rust away and get old. It is pure and holy. It will never disappear. It is reserved for you. If you are a child of God your name is on this inheritance. But what if we do not make **it**.

Impossible. God Himself keeps us in faith until it is revealed what we are in that last day.

2. It is an inheritance that involves a changed body **Philippians 3:20-21**.

“For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.”

To a young person this might not appear as significant as it is to an older one.

We will receive a glorified body like Christ's glorified body. And because of this body we will be able to see Christ as He really is.

1 John 3:1–2 ***“Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.”***

3. Finally, the most important part of the inheritance is that we will inherit God.

Psalms 73:24–26 ***“You will guide me with Your counsel, And afterward receive me to glory. Whom have I in heaven but You? And there is none upon earth that I desire besides You. My flesh and my heart fail; But God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.”***

We will receive God as our portion forever. This will be far more important than anything else in eternity. **Hebrews 11:6** gives us a glimpse of the importance of this.

“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”

There is one other place I want to turn you in **Revelation 21:1-4**.

“Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, ‘Behold, the tabernacle of God is WITH men, and He will dwell WITH them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.’”

II. The Suffering (verse 17b)

Romans 8:17b *“If indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.”*

A. What about this very scary phrase? The conjunction here indicates the fact that it will take place. So then Paul assumes all of God’s children will suffer.

B. Does this imply we need to go find unbelievers and provoke them to persecute us in order to receive the inheritance? No. Suffering comes to us in various forms. We grow by sharing with Christ in His sufferings **Philippians 3:10**.

“That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death.”

C. Peter gave us helpful guide lines about suffering as believers in **1 Peter 4:12-16**. *“Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ’s sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified.”*

The question is not if suffering will push its way into our lives, but how we respond to this suffering?

Do these realities color our present walk in this world? Are we living in view of the inheritance which will be ours?

This inheritance is for the people of God. Only those who have come to Christ by faith are those who are the children of God and joint heirs with Jesus Christ.

Hymn #539 O That Will Be Glory