

# Keynotes from Pastor Tim's am YouTube Sermon on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2020

## Longing for something better

(Please read these notes whilst watching or listening to the sermon)

### **Reading:- Romans 8 verses 18-32**

#### **Romans 8:18 – Longing for something better**

Everyone wants to know that someone is for them – that is that someone is concerned for our good. This is even more important at the moment, when we are wanting our government, NHS staff and food suppliers to be looking out for our good.

**Romans 8:31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?**

The message of the Bible is that God is for us – we will be looking at the implications of this truth over the next few weeks.

**God is for us: he has secured a future for us that doesn't compare with anything we've experienced up to now**

**Romans 8:18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.**

- 1) **What is the present suffering?** We are living in difficult times, unable to meet together because of the virus, and there is much other suffering going on in the world.

This is not the suffering Paul has in mind though there is a link:

**v 16-17** The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup> and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

The suffering Paul had in mind was suffering for Christ. This is what we experience as we seek to live godly lives in an ungodly world.

- Suffering that brings us into conflict with those who don't know God and don't want to obey him
- Suffering we experience when we realise that our lives are not what they ought to be.
- Suffering that is the result of sin – our own and that of others, as we fail to obey God

There is a direct link between this suffering and the physical suffering we are experiencing.

**v20** For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it.

God had created a perfect world with no suffering, but that all changed when Adam and Eve decided to rebel against God. They did not keep God at the centre. The result was sin and death. In keeping with his holy nature, God cursed the world he had made, resulting in physical and spiritual death, decay in the natural world, and physical suffering such as we are seeing now.

## 2) What is the future glory?

Many people are just looking forward to a time when the threat of infection is over, but Paul wants us to look to the day when Jesus returns to this earth to bring the current age to an end.

Paul gives us a glimpse of what will happen on that day:

- a) **There will be a renewed earth** as the curse is lifted and everything is made right. **v20-21** For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup> that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.
- b) **Our bodies will be resurrected.** We have a new nature, when we are born again, and the following apply:

- Our sins are forgiven and God won't condemn us **V1** There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus
- We are able to gradually become more obedient to God's will **vv2-4** For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit
- God is our Father **vv15 -16** For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" <sup>16</sup> The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

Yet we have this redeemed nature in unredeemed bodies but that will all change one day **v23** And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, **the redemption of our bodies.**

- c) **We will be completely conformed to Christ vv29** For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers

At the heart of all this is the birth, life, death, resurrection and ascension to heaven of the Lord Jesus Christ. He came to deal with the problem of our sin:

- God's purpose for us is that we shall be conformed to the image of his sinless Son and he will enable us to do this. **vv3-4** For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup> in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. **v32** He who did not spare his

own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

- Through his death on the cross, Jesus satisfied the wrath of God, securing forgiveness for those who believe in him
- Through his perfect life, he secured a righteousness that enables us to stand in God's holy presence

It is Jesus who has made this future glory possible and he has done this for the glory of God. On the day this glory is revealed to us and in us, we shall find ourselves worshipping him. Glory for the believer is only glory because of his presence.

Therefore:

- **Future glory needs to be our greatest longing. V19** For the creation **waits with eager longing** for the revealing of the sons of God. This should be our response – to be longing for the day when Jesus returns to make all things new, not just for the short term of return to normal life.
- **Future glory needs to be our greatest consideration. v18** starts **For I consider**. Many of us have more time on our hands because of what is happening now – let's use it to consider the future glory and anchor our souls in the truth found in the Bible. Consider, for example, **Isaiah 65** and **Revelation 21-22** and weigh up in your minds how future glory surpasses present sufferings.
- **Future glory needs to be our greatest motivation to seek Christ**. Covid 19 has served to reinforce the truth of the Bible that we are all appointed to die and face God's judgement on how we have lived our lives and what we have done with Jesus.

Let the truth of a future glory cause you to seek Jesus Christ as your saviour from sin and Lord of your life. Then you can be assured of this future glory.