

ROMANS 8: THE HEART OF IT ALL#5

The Heart of the Gospel and the Book of Romans

Romanos 8: El Corazón de Todo

El Corazón del Evangelio y el Libro de Romanos

Let's review the past five sermons by reading several key scriptures. This will get us back up to speed.

Chapter seven highlights the hopeless dilemma that faces all of humanity.

Paraphrase of Romans 7:21-24

I know what God's law says I should do, and part of me really wants to do it, but I keep failing. I end up doing the opposite of what God wants me to do because there is another law at work in my life. It is the powerful law of sin and death. It always influences me to do what is wrong instead of what God wants me to do. How will I ever be set free from this terrible battle that is going on inside of me? Thank you God for sending Jesus Christ to set me free. There is now no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus

Me doy cuenta entonces de que, aunque quiero hacer lo bueno, sólo puedo hacer lo malo. En lo más profundo de mi corazón amo la ley de Dios. Pero también me sucede otra cosa: Hay algo dentro de mí que lucha contra lo que creo que es bueno. Trato de obedecer la ley de Dios, pero me siento como en una cárcel, donde lo único que puedo hacer es pecar. Sinceramente, deseo obedecer la ley de Dios, pero no puedo dejar de pecar porque mi cuerpo es débil para obedecerla. ¡Pobre de mí! ¿Quién me libraré de este cuerpo que me hace pecar y me separa de Dios? ¡Le doy gracias a Dios, porque sé que Jesucristo me ha librado!

Paraphrase of Romans 8:1-3

There is now no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. This is because Christ Jesus has forgiven us and put a new law in my life. This is the law of the Spirit or the Holy Spirit. When we have surrendered to and live under the control of the Holy Spirit He will set us free from the law of sin and death.

Ahora pues, a quienes pertenecemos a Cristo Jesús no nos espera ya ninguna condenación porque Jesucristo nos ha perdonado y ha puesto una ley nueva en nuestras vidas. Esta es la

ley del Espíritu, o el Espíritu Santo. Cuando nos hemos rendido al Espíritu Santo y vivimos debajo de Su control, nos liberará de la ley de pecado y muerte.

In Christ we are set free from the condemnation and control of sin in our lives!

¡Por Cristo somos liberados de la condenación y control del pecado en nuestras vidas!

This life change happens at two important points on our journey of faith.

The first is accepting Christ's forgiveness by repenting of our sins and inviting him into our heart by faith. A-admit, B-believe, C-claim the gift of salvation.

We grow in our life of faith. The Holy Spirit brings us to another distinctive point where we realize that we must surrender all of our lives to him, especially that internal selfishness and leaning toward sin. The Holy Spirit cleanses our hearts by faith and begins to operate as boss, director or Lord of our lives. We call this being filled with the Holy Spirit or the surrender point of sanctification.

Listen to verse five in The Voice of Romans:

“If you live your life animated (directed or controlled) by the flesh-namely, your fallen corrupt nature-then your mind is focused on the matters of the flesh. But if you live your life animated (directed or controlled) by the Spirit-namely, God's indwelling presence-then your focus is on the work of the Spirit. A mind focused on the flesh is doomed to death, but a mind focused on the Spirit will find full life and complete peace.”

Si vive su vida dirigido por la carne, su naturaleza caída y corrupta, su mente está enfocada por los asuntos de la carne. Pero, si vive su vida dirigido por el Espíritu, la presencia de Dios en usted, su foco es el trabajo del Espíritu. Una mente enfocada por la carne es condenada a muerte, pero una mente enfocada por el Espíritu encontrará vida llena y paz completa.

It is a daily life staying close to God. Prayer, Bible, fellowship in church, obedience to God and service to others. These are the ways we stay in Christ. The result is we have a close and special relationship with God our heavenly Father where we can call him daddy.

Another key scripture is verse 15-17

For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." 16The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

Y ustedes no recibieron un espíritu que de nuevo los esclavice al miedo, sino el Espíritu que los adopta como hijos y les permite clamar: «¡Abba! ¡Padre!» El Espíritu mismo le asegura a nuestro espíritu que somos hijos de Dios.

17Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

Y si somos hijos, somos herederos; herederos de Dios y coherederos con Cristo, pues si ahora sufrimos con él, también tendremos parte con él en su gloria.

Today we move to what I have considered a part of chapter eight that is out of character. It seems this takes a left turn, and many just leave it out and move on the more personally moving parts of this chapter. They don't get the suffering with creation part. They move to verses like 8:26 and praise God that the Spirit of God is praying for them. They precede to 8:28 and take comfort in the fact that God is working in every circumstance for our good. We should rejoice in these great promises, but we need to understand that we have to participate in the suffering he talks about so we can participate in the promises he talks about. Let's read it together.

Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

Ahora, si somos hijos, entonces somos herederos—herederos de Dios y con Cristo, si compartimos en sus sufrimientos para que podemos compartir en su gloria.

There is a break here, like our new paragraph.

18I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. 19The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. 20For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it,

in hope 21that[i] the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God.

22We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. 23Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. 24For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? 25But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

26In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. 27And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.

18 De hecho, considero que en nada se comparan los sufrimientos actuales con la gloria que habrá de revelarse en nosotros. 19 La creación aguarda con ansiedad la revelación de los hijos de Dios, 20 porque fue sometida a la frustración. Esto no sucedió por su propia voluntad, sino por la del que así lo dispuso. Pero queda la firme esperanza 21 de que la creación misma ha de ser liberada de la corrupción que la esclaviza, para así alcanzar la gloriosa libertad de los hijos de Dios.

22 Sabemos que toda la creación todavía gime a una, como si tuviera dolores de parto. 23 Y no sólo ella, sino también nosotros mismos, que tenemos las primicias del Espíritu, gemimos interiormente, mientras aguardamos nuestra adopción como hijos, es decir, la redención de nuestro cuerpo. 24 Porque en esa esperanza fuimos salvados. Pero la esperanza que se ve, ya no es esperanza. ¿Quién espera lo que ya tiene? 25 Pero si esperamos lo que todavía no tenemos, en la espera mostramos nuestra constancia.

26 Así mismo, en nuestra debilidad el Espíritu acude a ayudarnos. No sabemos qué pedir, pero el Espíritu mismo intercede por nosotros con gemidos que no pueden expresarse con palabras. 27 Y Dios, que examina los corazones, sabe cuál es la intención del Espíritu, porque el Espíritu intercede por los creyentes conforme a la voluntad de Dios.

Suffering is essential for our spiritual journey. It isn't just something that happens that we need to get away from as fast as we can, it is essential.

Notice something significant that I have tried to point out by bolding a few words.

Three times Paul uses the word groan. I want us to understand this word groan. It isn't a scream but it comes as the result of an event that is similar. This deep groan may actually be a more intense response than a scream.

This groan is, a deep pain in the pit of our guts when we learn of something so difficult we cannot hardly fathom it. It is a quiet scream in the pit of our stomach.

God says that creation is groaning...

Dios dice que la creación gime...

With us

✚ *Con nosotros*

Waiting for the sons of God to be revealed

✚ *Aguarda la revelación de los hijos de Dios*

Like in childbirth

✚ *Como estar de parto*

God has caused creation groan in frustration because of decay

✚ *Dios ha causado la creación a gemir de frustración por causa de la descomposición*

Waiting for its redemption from decay

✚ *Aguardando para su redención de la descomposición*

Creation's groaning and redemption is tied to the Children of God

✚ *El gemido y redención de creación vincula a los Hijos de Dios*

What is the evidence of the sounds of creation groaning? Hurricanes, drought, famine, volcanic eruptions and warming up.

Someday creation will be redeemed from the curse of sin and brought back to the way God intended it.

God says that we groan...(like in childbirth)

Dios dice que gemimos...

✚ **Inside our selves**

✚ *Al dentro de nosotros*

✚ **With creation**

✚ *Con creación* (our lives are tied up with creation; sin has effected creation just like it has effected us)

✚ **Waiting for our final adoptions as sons and daughters**

✚ *Aguardamos nuestra adopción como hijos e hijas*

✚ **Waiting for the redemption of our bodies**

✚ *Aguardamos la redención de nuestro cuerpo*

✚ **This is our hope-this is creation's hope**

✚ *Esta es nuestra esperanza-esta es la esperanza de la creación*

We groan when we see famine, disasters, people dying. We groan when we see our human systems falling apart. We groan when we see people destroying their lives through addiction, immorality, poor choices. We groan when we see families being torn apart. We groan when we see our school system being torn apart.

We groan as we try to see all this and hold onto faith and hope.

God says the Holy Spirit groans...

Dios dice que el Espíritu Santo gime...

✚ **Helping us in our weakness** (trying to hang on to hope)

✚ *Ayudándonos por nuestra debilidad*

✚ **Helping us when we don't know what to pray for**

✚ *Ayudándonos cuando no sabemos para qué debemos orar*

✚ **Examines our hearts and minds and the heart of God**

✚ *Examina nuestras corazones y mentes y la corazón de Dios*

✚ **Interceding for us with the Father**

✚ *Intercediendo para nosotros con el Padre*

Let's go back the first verse of this section and get some clean teaching.

Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

Ahora, si somos hijos, entonces somos herederos—herederos de Dios y con Cristo, si compartimos en sus sufrimientos para que podemos compartir en su gloria.

Notice that he uses the word if two times. When you use the word if what does it mean? It means that what came before is conditional on what comes next. We use it with our kids all the time. I will get you some new school clothes if you pick up your room and go through your old clothes. This means no new clothes unless you do what I say.

There is another identity that groaned. Who is it? Christ. Coming to earth, had to groan inwardly as he left heaven and took on the form of a human. The many times in our skin he groaned. When he was about to go to the cross he suffered so much he groaned and blood came out of his pours.

We sum this all up.

Humanity sinned and the world started groaning.

We live in a broken world and so we suffer and groan as we try to hang on to hope.

Really we have a huge choice here. We can groan in reaction to the situation in creation, our world systems and our individual lives or we can participate in the suffering of Christ. This is redemptive groaning. What is redemptive suffering/groaning?

It is being like Jesus and moving to the pain and suffering of our world and seeking to bring God's grace and hope. We have a choice, to move away from pain and suffering or move to it as a Christian body.

As I read my Bible I see no choice in the matter. I understand God to be saying if you want the promises, the hope and joy of Christ, God's working in every situation for our good, then I have to participate in Christ's suffering for our world. I have to suffer with the world like Jesus did. Let me say it again, I can move away from the pain and suffering in our world, or be like Jesus and move to it.

Let's break this down to some concrete examples.

Let's look at our globe and the disasters that it is undergoing: famine, typhoons, hurricanes, Tsunami, disease epidemics and global warming.

There are two understandings of these things.

The first is a God centered approach. God is sovereign and is causing these things as punishment or to get us ready for the second coming. Many in this approach felt like we should withdraw and let it happen. Our part is prayer and getting people ready for heaven. So evangelism was central. We believe in sharing the good news of Jesus, but increasingly this run away from the trouble, hide in church approach concerns us.

Another approach is man centered. We created it all and we can fix it all. Some amazing things are being done with technology. The Gates (Bill) Foundation is contributing billions to this foundation to wiping out certain childhood diseases. This is great. However, in much of this man centered approach, people have left out God.

They really believe in fault finding; we are to blame, and sin is our fault. However, they leave out what Paul identifies in verse 20 "For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it"

It seems to me there is another approach, it is redemptive suffering. It is being like Christ.

It admits that in many of the creation problems man's sin is at the heart. Pollution of course is the result of man's sin. Many diseases have a component of sin. AIDS jumps from the animal population to the human population, this may or may not be the result of man's sin, however, the spread of it is most of the time the result of man's sin. Famine is nature, but sometimes it is man's lack of wisdom.

In the middle of man's sin is God's redemptive action; He uses these terrible things that are the consequences of man's sin to turn us back to himself. Additionally, creation is moving toward a redemptive act and this move seems to involve an increase in disasters that humanity didn't cause or cannot avoid.

That is enough of the examples. The course of action is the key. We are called to move to the pain of tsunamis and an AIDS epidemic with grace, compassion, medicine sacrifice, but also the news of God's redemption in our world.

You see, man cannot fix all global disruptions, we can, suffer with those who have been affected and reach out with compassion to victims of AIDS (millions of homeless children), victims of hurricanes like Katrina of a few years ago. Whatever your view of the war in Iraq, people there were hurting and needed hope. Christians go to the suffering and enter in providing compassion and the good news of Christ.

We take food, clothes, water, and medicine, also the hope of Jesus. NCN Inc. on our district is getting ready to buy a disaster relief trailer fill it with tools so when floods, tornado's, hurricanes etc come we can put a team in the van on the spur of the moment and give relief.

We have had floods here. We join in the redemption. We have stuff going on in our community that is not a tsunami, but is epidemic. People are suffering, sometimes from their own sin and poor choices, sometimes from the sin and poor choices of their parents, and sometimes from the sin of people that they didn't know. Widows loose their insurance benefits that they deceased husbands worked for, and there is nothing they can do.

What is our response? Pray, worship, share our faith, but we also reach out to those addicted and be willing to walk with them through the pain of overcoming addiction. We reach out to abused children with protection and love, by working in the system to protect them and give them a home. When the system doesn't work, we attempt to change the system. We reach out with love and practical help to widows without

medicine. We try to secure medicine for them. We reach out in compassion and practical ways. We also reach out with the hope that can only be found in Jesus.

The board just voted last Monday to celebrate our Denominations 100 year birthday, which is on Oct. 5th with a breakfast, baptism, special worship service, but also by getting together teams of people on Sat and Sunday to clean up parts of our city and feed hungry people.

This passage of scripture on redemptive suffering with our world is connected to God God's promises for us and what it means to be a holy people.

Sometimes we don't know what we should do or pray for. I have been there a lot. The Holy Spirit who knows the heart and will of God, searches our hearts and sees the situation we are confused about. He intercedes for us and provides guides for us as well.

Closing prayer.