

Magnolia Missionary Baptist Church of Beaumont
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Superintendent: Ordained Minister Rev. Samuel Simon
Teacher: Sis. Lottie Jackson – Women's Class

Unit 3: Liberating Letters
Subject: Hope for the Future
Text: Romans 8:18-30

Key Verse: I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. (Romans 8:18 NIV)

Key Terms:

Bondage – slavery; enslavement
Freedom – liberty; release
Futility - emptiness; “vanity”; frustration
Hope - expectation; trust; confidence; faith
Revealed – uncovered; brought to light
Sufferings – those which befall one; afflictions; enduring

Outings of the Lesson:

1. It Shall Be Revealing (Romans 8:18-21)
2. It Shall Be Redeeming (Romans 8:22-25)
3. It Shall Be Rejoicing (Romans 8:26-30)

Discussion:

It Shall Be Revealing (Romans 8:18-21)

V18 – We as Christians has been freed from sin, but not necessarily been freed from suffering. Those in Christ, suffers with him and for him. Paul's letters to the Roman and Galatians is also to encourage even us today. To view this present suffering of this world , is of no comparison to the glory of Christ to come.

V19 – The creation refers to, all of God's created world. Humanity the creature awaits this revelation, because of the disconnected, because of Sin, it brought deterioration and tension between, not only man and God, but also man and God's creation.

V20- This disconnect caused an imbalance in all the earth, and a loss of peace and harmony. But in God's time all things will be brought back to a harmonic balance, as sin is eradicated once and for all. God has promised that the very creation that has been enslaved will be made free.

V21 – This liberation will come when the children of God are revealed through the “ glorious liberty “ described as “ the glorious freedom which belong to the children of God “. The future hope is revealing, it's empowering of the believer, it gives us comfort, it gives us power to continue when we sometimes want to give in or give up, it helps us to go through trials and tribulations in Jesus' name and for his purpose. It's a full revelation of the redeemed .In that day when peace will cover the land.

It Shall Be Redeeming (Romans 8:22-25)

V22-23 – We wait for the glorious revealing of freedom from the existence of sin in this world. On that day, the created world, from the time of Adam and Eve has suffered because of human sin. (Gen.1:28-30 & Gen.3:17-18). We wait, whatever suffering believers may experience, the groaning is not only of humanity with each other, but all of creation groan. The animals, nature it's self. land, sea, and air. The saints of God, we are not exempt, we're not excused from the troubles in the world. We groan within, as we await the final adoption unto God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, the redemption of our bodies back to God in holiness. We are saved from the punishment and the penalty of sin, we've been given the strength over the power of sin. We hope for that day when we are removed from the very presence of sin.

V24 – Paul added the challenge that if this final possession were in our hands, then we would have no need to hope. Hope that is seen is no hope at all. That's why we walk by faith and not by sight.

V25 – Ephesians 2:8a, For by grace are ye saved through faith. We do yet experience all God has promised, but we look to the future with patience and confidence. Patience, a fruit of the Spirit, a trait we possess by the grace, gift and support of the Holy Spirit, our duty is to live with patience in anticipation of every hope we have expected from the Lord.

It Shall Be Rejoicing (Romans 8:26-30)

V26 – As we patiently "Wait" for the promised hope of resurrected bodies and eternal life, the holy spirit helps us by interceding to God on our behalf. When our struggles become too much for us to bear, he helps us in our weakness, which is our inability to analyze situations and pray about them, the spirit pleads or intercedes with sighs and groans too deep for words.

V27 – He searches our hearts and know our thoughts, and align our words with the will of God. 1John 5:14,15 –And this is the confidence we have in him, that, if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us: and if we know that he hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

V28 – All things working together and after "We Know". The implications here, is a knowledge, that we are firm in our love for God and in our faith, that God is working things out. The character of the saints (1) that we love God, those that love God make the best of all he does. (2) We are the called according to his purpose, not according to any merits of ours, but according to God's own gracious purpose. (3) The privilege of the saints, that all things work together, all this we know. We know for a certainty from the word of God, from our own experience, and from the experiences of all the saints of God.

V29-30 – Paul speaks of so many ingredients of the happiness of true believers. Paul's letters represent the ground of them all, which he lays in predestination. He sets before us the order of the causes of our salvation, like a golden chain which cannot be broken. He speaks of four links of it.

1. Whom he did foreknow he also did predestinate to conformed to the image of his son.
2. Whom he did predestinate those he also called.
3. Whom he called those he also justified, and

4. Whom he justified, those he also glorified.

Every child of God is predestined (identified) Called (chosen) Justified (made free) and Glorified (redeemed in the beauty and holiness of Christ) with Christ for God's high purpose and plan. It is here that rejoicing is anticipated in heaven and predicted in revelation. We can trust God's promise and rejoice in his word. God himself hath undertaken the doing of this the first to the last. This is a mighty encouragement to our faith and hope.

