

# FOR DAILY MEDITATION

**MONDAY, Apr. 12. Matt. 18:6-10.**

**The seriousness of sin.** Many have lost the knowledge of how serious the problem of sin is. When we influence anyone to wrong behavior or words, we darken our life and the other person's. The seriousness of sin is radical enough to be underscored with the matter-of-fact warning of hellfire. God's love is complete and just with no room for unrepentance.

**TUESDAY, Apr. 13. II Tim. 2:1-13.**

**Our struggle against sin.** The struggle is real, is it not? Our concern is for Christ and His church, but it is easy to relent in our battle against sin if we let down our guard. Paul encouraged Timothy and us to endure to the end. Do not give up the fight even when you feel you are suffering. We are never left to our own resources. God will always provide a way out of our struggles (I Cor. 10:13-14).

**WEDNESDAY, Apr. 14. I Pet. 5:8-11.**

**Be alert.** The world lulls us into almost a comatic state toward sin. Sin is glorified on TV and in movies. Virtual sin is encouraged by computer games even to the point of callous violence. Sin, like a roaring lion, seeks to devour its sleeping prey. Be alert, stay alert, stand firm, and resist. If sin has wounded you or wrecked your life while you were "sleeping," God in His grace longs to restore you. Rise, stand firm in faith, and endure.

**THURSDAY, Apr. 15. Col. 3:1-11.**

**Set your heart on things above.** Paul gives us plenty of examples of things we should not set our hearts on. But it may be helpful to think of what "things above" we *should* set our

minds on. "Things" may seem undefined. Things above include restored glory, wholeness, fellowship with God, forgiveness, freedom, peace, unity, salvation, perfect love, inclusion in the body of Christ, no condemnation, and joy in the midst of trials. Set your heart on these.

**FRIDAY, Apr. 16. I John 4:1-6.**

**Greater is He that is in you.** False teachers will try to lead us astray. God desires to make it known to us who truly believes and who is misleading us. We will know this by who our teachers say Jesus is. A true believer will recognize that Jesus is Lord of all and died and rose again to save us. But we do not need to fear the false teachers. Jesus has placed His Holy Spirit in the hearts of believers. The Holy Spirit is greater and more powerful than any evil in the world.

**SATURDAY, Apr. 17. Eph. 6:10-18.**

**Put on the whole armor.** The battle for our souls is fierce, but God has not left us defenseless. He has made Himself known and given us His truth in the Bible. He has offered us complete forgiveness and justified us through Jesus' sacrifice so that we have peace with Him. Our faith in Him is a mighty shield against enemy attacks. He is with us and has moved us into His eternal kingdom through salvation. With His truth, we can stand our ground.

**SUNDAY, Apr. 18. Rom. 6:1-14.**

**United with Christ.** We may live a new life because we are redeemed. Jesus delivered us from slavery to sin, and now it is no longer our master. We have died and risen again in Christ. You are united with Christ, hidden in Him and secure (Col. 3:3).

—Sherry Newcum.

## LESSON 8

APRIL 25, 2021

# SCRIPTURE LESSON TEXT

**ROM. 8:18** For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

**19** For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.

**20** For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope,

**21** Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

**22** For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.

**23** And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the first-fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves,

waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

**24** For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?

**25** But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.

**26** Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

**27** And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

## NOTES

# Anticipating Redemption

Lesson Text: Romans 8:18-27

Related Scriptures: II Corinthians 5:1-5; II Peter 3:13-15;  
Revelation 21:1-7

TIME: A.D. 56

PLACE: from Corinth

**GOLDEN TEXT**—"Even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body" (Romans 8:23).

## Lesson Exposition

This lesson introduces us to the third unit of study in this quarter's emphasis on the proclamation of the gospel. This final unit of study addresses some profound yet practical implications of the gospel message.

In this week's lesson text, we investigate one of the emotional implications of the gospel for God's creation, His children, and His Spirit. This investigation reveals the longings of God's creation and His children for redemption's completion and the ministry of God's Holy Spirit as He supports the emotional frailty of God's people.

### THE LONGING AND GROANING OF GOD'S CREATION—Rom. 8:18-22

**A thoughtful comparison between suffering and glory (Rom. 8:18-19).** The apostle Paul's previous thoughts on suffering gave him cause for reflection (cf. vs. 17). As he pondered the reality of suffering, Paul came to a definite conclusion. The sufferings of this present world are not worthy to be compared to the future glory that will be clearly unveiled to God's children.

All God's creation, animate and inani-

mate, demonstrates an intense longing to observe something of significance (cf. Phil. 1:20). The creation eagerly anticipates observing the future, clearly visible appearance of the redeemed, resurrected children of God.

You were created in God's image (Gen. 1:27). A part of that image involves an emotional capacity characterized by deep longings. A full appreciation of your finished salvation demands "getting in touch" with your longings.

**A hopeful transition from slavery to freedom (Rom. 8:20-22).** According to God's sovereign purpose, His creation was placed under the control of a sinful state devoid of truth. Nevertheless, the empty condition of God's creation contained an element of hope. That God-ordained hope involved ultimate freedom from sin's corruption and the accompanying liberty that consumes the future appearance of Jesus, the Messiah, and His redeemed, resurrected children.

In light of this glorious future existence, God's creation aches for its fulfillment. As it awaits this promised

fulfillment, the creation experiences a relentless awareness of painful weakness and failure.

### THE LONGING AND GROANING OF GOD'S CHILDREN—Rom. 8:23-25

**An eager anticipation of redemption (Rom. 8:23).** The apostle Paul moved from a global, inclusive view of emotional turmoil to a specific, personal view. God's children, possessors of God's Holy Spirit, inwardly sigh with eager expectation for something more than their current state of misery. God's children await their spiritual adoption as God's chosen heirs (vss. 15-16). This spiritual adoption has a future fulfillment when corruptible bodies are eternally changed into glorified ones (I Cor. 15:49-53; II Cor. 5:1).

A promised, joyful future waits. Allow yourself to long for that glorious day when you will be in the presence of your Saviour forever.

**An eager perseverance of hope (Rom. 8:24-25).** The future reality of spiritual inheritance as adopted children is saturated with hope. The fact that this reality is not currently visible does nothing to negate hope; in fact, it authenticates it. If the ultimate reality of salvation were visible, there would be no reason to hope for it.

You are called to live by faith; that is, you hope for what you do not see. When you obediently do this, God cultivates within you the spiritual discipline of patience. Along with patience, you experience the emotion of eager, confident expectation.

### THE SUPPORT AND INTERCESSION OF GOD'S SPIRIT—Rom. 8:26-27

**The Spirit's helpful support (Rom. 8:26).** The apostle Paul next concentrated his thoughts on another specific spiritual discipline—prayer. Living as

frail creatures in an imperfect world, God's people confess they often lack full knowledge of what they should pray for.

**The Spirit's obedient intercession (Rom. 8:27).** One of God's magnificent attributes is His ability to search the hearts of His children (cf. Ps. 139:23; Jer. 17:10). God also is perfectly aware of the thoughts of His Spirit. As a result, the Holy Spirit successfully transmits the deep, unspoken longings of prayer into God's presence.

God knows your frail, temporal state (Ps. 103:14). With a shameless confidence, therefore, boldly approach His throne of grace in prayer and obtain the spiritual benefits of His intimate presence (Heb. 4:16).

—Thomas R. Chmura.

## PRACTICAL POINTS

1. It is vital for believers to give deliberate consideration to the problem of suffering. Only then will they delight in the future glory of their resurrection (Rom. 8:18-19).
2. God's sovereign purposes are not arbitrary. They are implemented for the purpose of creating hope (vss. 20-21).
3. The emotional sighs of deep longings reveal believers' passionate desire for God's perfect presence (vss. 22-23).
4. Hope built on unseeing faith is productive, resulting in the spiritual discipline of patience (vss. 24-25).
5. When prayer thoughts are difficult to put into words, be assured the Holy Spirit is in control (vs. 26).
6. Holy Spirit-empowered prayers are always in perfect accord with God's perfect will (Rom. 8:27; cf. 12:2).

—Thomas R. Chmura.