

Monday, 22 October 2018 Romans 5:3-5

Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

Sufferings to endurance to character to hope. What a progression! But the exciting part of this path is that the result is not shame but is the love of God poured into me by the Holy Spirit. This love is expressed as the righteousness, peace, and joy that is life in the Kingdom in the here and now. (Rom 10:11, 14:17)

Those in the world hope, knowing they won't, to win the Powerball. I know that my hope is a certain expectation that I am enabled to live out my life in the Kingdom of God. Now! Hallelujah!

Tuesday, 23 October 2018 Romans 7:6

But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code.

I am freed from the burden of slavish attempt to obey a set of standards that are impossible to keep, into a life of freedom, equipped to live those standards as an expression of what the LORD, God, the Almighty has done for me.

Paul's joyful shout of manumission is shared with me in Romans 7:24-25 *Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh, I serve the law of sin.*

And the result in Ephesians 2:8-10 *For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*

Wednesday, 24 October 2018 Romans 8:1-6 (1)

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. 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. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the

flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.

Romans 8 has got to be labeled the Freedom Chapter. His joyful shout at the end of Chapter 7 is laid out in detail in 8 beginning with the summary in the first two sentences. No condemnation because the Spirit has set me free. God sees me through the blood of His Son; my debts are fully and completely paid. The necessary and sufficient conditions met.

Thursday, 25 October 2018 Romans 8:1-6 (2)

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. 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. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.

Now I am called to walk according to the guidance of the Spirit. The Law of the LORD, God, the Almighty has not been set aside, but its righteous requirements are achievable. The Helper and Comforter, whom our Lord Jesus referred to as the One who would lead me into all truth and remind me of all that He said, is ever at hand to guide me. If I am willing to obey His guidance, I will walk according to the Spirit.

Friday, 26 October 2018 (3) Romans 8:1-6

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. 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. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.

There is an element of personal choice here. Do I choose to live

according to the flesh and continue to suffer the consequences even though artfully disguised as pleasures or do I choose to live according to the Word of God and commit my life to the guidance of the Holy Spirit? The latter brings me into a life in the Kingdom of Heaven in the here and now; a life of fulfillment of the request embodied in the Lord's Prayer; a life of living out the 23rd Psalm.

Saturday, 27 October 2018 Romans 8:1-6 (4)

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. 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. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.

Choose the way of the flesh and find that the alluring high inevitably leads to a life of enslavement to a brutal and harsh taskmaster. It is not an encouraging time to find yourself digging through dirty ashtrays, searching for a butt with just one more drag in it on the morning after. Just the trailer to eternity; forever spent in Hell, never able to forget that what could have been will never be.

Choose the way of the Spirit, and you are being led into a life led beside still waters. Life today becomes the trailer to eternity, forever spent in the presence of the LORD, God, the Almighty; always praising the LORD that what could have been never will be.

Lord's Day, 28 October 2018 Psalm 119:37

Turn my eyes from looking at worthless things; and give me life in Your ways.

This task, this task of a foot soldier in Your army, is a task of love and dedication to Your cause. And I need Your Holy Spirit to keep me focused on the cause and to avoid entanglement with worthless things. Let me not get sidetracked by the cunning wiles of the Evil One. The cause to illuminate that You are Truth vs. the Lie that You are a construct of man's mind. Help me to keep attentive to my portion.

VOICES TOGETHER

Daily Meditations from the Scriptures



October 22-28, 2018

Prayer of the week, based on Paul's prayer in: Ephesians 1:18-19a

I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe.

LORD, my prayer for the [congregation] is that the perceptions of our hearts would be inflamed and filled with passion by the hope to which we are called; that those saints we are called to serve would be encouraged to display the riches of Your glorious inheritance in every aspect of their lives That none of us would doubt that incomparable great power which accomplishes more than we can ask or imagine. *Amen*

To fear or not to fear, that is the question.

The fear of the Lord, an expression that occurs many times in Scripture, 142 in the ESV in various forms, is not well understood in the Church today. For many, the phrase represents a weak and flabby description of an overly saccharine spiritual being of some sort. It certainly does not include the concept of the LORD, God the Almighty who spoke all things into being and who controls all things.

Join with me in examining the fear of the LORD and seeking an understanding of life in the Kingdom of Heaven in the here and now as guided by that fear.

Voices Together is published daily on the website of the Fellowship of Ailbe, www.ailbe.org; along with material by other writers to encourage and assist in our walks as disciples of Jesus Christ. These messages can also be received as daily emails or in a monthly printed version by sending a request to:

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