

Hope of No Separation

July 12, 2009

Romans 8:18-30

Dr. Jeff H. McCrory Jr.

Synopsis:

OK Jeff, you have been teaching that we look forward to the resurrection of our bodies at the end of the age because Jesus has been raised before the end. What about now? How does the resurrection of Jesus help us now?

The resurrection of Jesus from the dead secures for us and the creation a future glory so that we may live in hope through the sufferings of this age. Today I want you to walk out of here living in hope.

I.

The Way We Were

Rom 8:20 For the creation was subjected to FUTILITY

Personal Confession

-Text was my first sermon text

-29 years ago, Florence CO

-1 month after my 19 yr old sister died in an auto accident

“Why?”

-My older sister's comment

“Whatever faith in God I had is just about gone.”

*Living in hope is a real concern: Is life FUTILE?

Life is not the way it's supposed to be: Bible diagnosis

-Last week:

READ 8:2 Set us free from sin and death

-This week:

READ 8:20-21 futility, bondage to decay

-Background to Romans 8 = Gen 3

Decision against God/life

(whether a person Adam or an emerging species Adam)

READ 14-19

Decision affects:

Animals = snakes

People = pain

Power = Male/female domination

Work = sweat

Earth = hard to grow, thorns

Life = Death

8:2 = Gen 3

-Result = God subjected the creation to futility and decay

FUTILITY = The way we were

What do we do with the way we were?

- My sister's comment: Is all faith in God gone?
- If this is all there is, then eat, drink, and die!
- Life is futile!
- No hope!

*Is this where you are living? Hopeless?

This is not the way things are supposed to be
Something in us says NO

II.

The Way We Will Be

Rom 8:21 Creation itself will be set FREE

Here's the way it's supposed to be

- 19 yr olds not killed in autos
- cancer gone
- marriages hold together
- people don't suffer addictions
- lonely are comforted
- creation is healed
- no one hungry

*Looks a lot like what Jesus was doing!

Here's the way it's supposed to be: Bible

READ (Restore Gen 3)

- 8:18 glory (always means what a thing is supposed to be)
- 8:19 revealed, creation on "tip-toe" crane the neck
- 8:21 creation set free (no pollution)
- 8:23 Adoption (no homeless)
 - Fruit (strawberries!)
 - Redemption of bodies (transformed)
- 8:24 See hope fulfilled (homecoming)
- 8:28-29 God works all things for good (5 aorists) = GOAL
- 8:29 Our image is restored (relationship to God)

FREE = The way we/creation will be

How does this make you feel?

- How would you act and feel if you believed this?

-How would you live differently?
e.g. Ronald Reagan story: poop and the pony
“Must be a pony around here somewhere!”

This is the way things are supposed to be, but aren't!

III.

The Way We Are

Romans 8:18 For I consider that the SUFFERINGS of this present time

It's not:

The way we were = FUTILITY
The way we will be = FREE

Here's the way things are: Bible

READ

8:18 sufferings
8:19 creation waits (I hate waiting)
8:22 creation/we groan in labor pains, pain (-) baby (+)
8:23 first fruits (appetizer not main course!)
8:24 hope (not sight)
8:25 wait with patience (I hate patience)
8:26 weakness, don't know how to pray
8:26-27 KEY is SPIRIT = Father and Son
-helps
-prays
-sighs
-intercedes
8:28-29 God works all things for good = PROCESS

FUTILITY = The way we were

FREE = The way we will be

HOPE = The way we are

What difference does the resurrection of Jesus make now?

PAST and FUTURE:

Changed everything:
8: 2 Set us free from sin and death (past)
8:29-30 Reached the goal (5 aorists)
Secures our/creation's future

NOW

-Bible is sober!
-Does not take you out of suffering: cancer and car accidents
-Does not take away groaning

- Makes you wait!
- Gives you a taste, the hope of glory
- Spirit provides words and prays

*We live now in HOPE and LOVE (nothing separates)

HOPE = Jesus has been raised bodily, we will be also

LOVE = God's Spirit will not abandon us until that day

THIS IS THE GOOD NEWS!