

Series: Romans
Title: Heirs Suffer with Christ
Text: Romans 8: 16-18
Date: January 13, 2019
Place: SGBC, NJ

Romans 8: 16: The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

Being born of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit bears witness in that new spirit he has put within us. Christ said the Spirit would bear witness of Christ.

John 16: 13:...when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. 14: He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

A sinner only knows he is a child of God when he agrees with the Spirit of God that our salvation is Christ alone by grace alone through faith alone! The Spirit witnesses that we are children because God the Father chose us and blessed us *in Christ*, predestinating unto the adoption of children *by Christ*—without cause in us—*child of God says Amen! Thank you Father!*

The Spirit witnesses that we are children because the Son of God was made flesh, made sin, made a curse, to make us righteous in him, that we might receive the adoption of sons—*the child of God says Amen! Thank you Lord!*

The Spirit witnesses that we are sons because God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into our hearts crying, Abba, Father—*the child of God cries, Father my Father, thank you!*

Proposition: We prove we are children by suffering to the end with Christ that we might be glorified together with Christ. Note: This coming Friday night, Lord willing, we will look at perseverance of the saints—this is it!

Subject: Heirs Suffer with Christ

HEIRS OF GOD

Romans 8: 17: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ

If we are children then we are heirs of God. This hope God gives only to his children—*if children, then heirs*. The Spirit has made us know we are heirs of God.

Titus 3: 4:...the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, 5: Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; 6: Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; 7: That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Titus 1:2 [we have] hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;

When Christ is formed in us, we praise our Father because he has made us fit for this inheritance.

Colossians 1: 12: Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath [past tense] made us meet [nothing else needed] to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:

Galatians 3:29: if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

We are kept by God because Christ has accomplished our salvation.

1 Peter 1: 3: Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4: To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, 5: Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Worldly men do not have this hope. They hope only for things in this life. When they die their hopes end, they leave all behind, meet God then eternity of darkness.,

Job 27:8: For what is the hope of the hypocrite, though he hath gained, when God taketh away his soul?

Proverbs 11:7: When a wicked man dieth, his expectation shall perish: and the hope of unjust men perisheth.

Sinner, cast your care on Christ today and God will give you this *good hope* that Christ guarantees to all who believe on him—a *sure hope*. Death only ushers us into our eternal inheritance.

THE BELIEVER'S INHERITANCE

What is the believer's inheritance? Will-worshipping religious folks talk about rewards in heaven with a mercenary spirit. To them heaven will be no different than this world. They work to indebt God to give them the *biggest* mansion on the *best* block in heaven so that poor believers, who they out-worked, will look on them with envy from the poor side of heaven from the windows of the projects! Nonsense!

Read verse 17 again carefully. Believers are "*heirs OF GOD...*" Our inheritance is God himself, Christ himself! God says to his children what he said to Abraham,

Genesis 15:1...Fear not...: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.

We are priests unto God. Christ "*loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen*" (Rev 1: 5). "*The LORD said*" to the priests "*I am thy part and thine inheritance*" (Nu 18: 20). Not only is God our inheritance, we are his inheritance—*Deuteronomy 32: 9: For the LORD'S portion is his people...*

JC Philpot said, "*All the love of God, the goodness of God, the holiness of God, all his happiness, bliss, and blessedness, all his might, majesty, and glory, shining forth in the Person of his dear Son in the blaze of one eternal, unclouded day—this is the saint's inheritance.*"

Child of God, think of that: "*All things are yours; ...And ye are Christ's; and Christ is God's.*" (1 Cor 3:21-23)

IF WE SUFFER

Romans 8: 17...if so be that we suffer with *him*,...

Proof we are the children of God and heirs of God is if we suffer to the end with Christ. You do not win a race by starting then stopping halfway. You must cross the finish line. All Christ's children suffer *with* Christ *for* Christ by his grace. He said we must suffer.

Matthew 16: 22: Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee. 23: But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men. 24: Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. 25: For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.

Christ's children deny themselves, take up his cross suffering due to our identification with him. First, we "*suffer the loss of all things and count them but dung that we might win Christ and be found in him.*" Secondly, we except reproach and persecution for the sake of our Lord, possibly even death. But we identify with Christ and his people under his gospel because Christ suffered for us.

Hebrews 13:12: Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate. 13: Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach. 14: For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come.

All his apostles and saints suffered persecution. The apostles all suffered with Christ. Paul said,

1Thessalonians 2:2: But even after that we had suffered before, and were shamefully entreated, as ye know, at Philippi, we were bold in our God to speak unto you the gospel of God with much contention.

All Christ's people suffered with Christ. Paul said of the Thessalonians,

1 Thessalonians 2:14: ye, brethren, became followers of the churches of God which in Judaea are in Christ Jesus: for ye also have suffered like things of your own countrymen, even as they have of the Jews: 15 Who both killed the Lord Jesus, and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they please not God, and are contrary to all men: 16 Forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they might be saved, to fill up their sins alway: for the wrath is come upon them to the uttermost.

Brethren, Christ says before he returns it will be that way again. I could see that happening soon!

But God gives more grace and more faith to behold Christ our Reward which makes us love Christ and choose to *suffer with Christ*.

Hebrews 11: 24 By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; 25: Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; 26: Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward. 27: By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.

God causes us to suffer to keep us mindful that things visible are not our lasting home.

1 Corinthians 4: 14: Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present us with you. 15: For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might

through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God. 16: For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. 17: For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; 18 While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

A few verses down from our text, Paul said

Romans 8:24: 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.

Brethren, Christ hates lukewarmness. Let's be true followers of Christ, really forsake all and suffer with him.

1 Peter 2:21: For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:

But Christ said,

Matthew 5:11: Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. 12: Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

GLORIFIED TOGETHER

Romans 8: 17...we suffer with [Christ], that we may be also glorified together.

Believers have a different attitude toward any kind of suffering because if we suffer with Christ until the end we know we shall be glorified: not with Christ's essential glory, nor his mediatorial glory, but with the glory his Father gave him to give to us. There is glorification of the saints *in Christ*, glorification of saints *by Christ* and glorification of saints *with Christ*.

1 John 3:2: Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

What will that be like? I have no idea. If I tried to describe it I would fall short.

1 Corinthians 2:9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

So, believing God, we endure suffering because we know—*Romans 8: 18: ...that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.* So let me close with this

1 Peter 3: 8: Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous: 9: Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing. 10: For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: 11: Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it. 12: For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil. 13: And who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good? 14: But and if ye

suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled; 15: But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: 16: Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ. 17: For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing.

1Peter 1:13: Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

1 Peter 4:13: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

Brethren, when you suffer, say what the brethren of old said, *Psalm 73:24: Thou [Father] shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory. 25: Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee. 26: My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever.* Remember, *1 Peter 5:10: the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.*

AMEN!