**The Book of Romans**

Part Three: God’s righteousness is revealed in His free gift of Spirit-life. (Romans 5–8)

***New Life: Living Hope in a Lost World Or, Picturing a Bright Future on a Dark Day***

 ***Romans 8:18-28***

God’s promises are wonderful, but waiting for them can be challenging. God understands this (He truly does!) and in His Word graciously and often tells us all that we need to maintain our perspective. These are some of the most encouraging words in the entire Bible, and life-changing if we embrace them. If you ever wonder about God’s plans for you as a child of God, just remember. . .

***Your worst day can’t be compared to your glorious future!*** v. 18

As bad as suffering is, the worst of it (including physical pain, rejection of loved ones, persecution for the Gospel, loneliness, and sin’s temptation) is nothing compared to what lies ahead.

***You will be an honored guest at the RE-Creation Banquet table.*** vv. 19-21

Unlike Adam and Eve who were king and queen of creation, but failed, Jesus and His Bride will reign over the new creation forever. Just as death and a curse entered because of Adam’s sin, so also death and all curses will be lifted in Jesus, and on behalf of all who are in Him.

***The present creation (believers included) is but a shadow of its future glorious self.*** vv. 22-25

 Satan already had fallen when Adam was created, and earth had become his new home. When Adam

followed him into sin, the ground was cursed. The combination of God’s previous conflict with Satan and the

rebellion of man moved God to place all creation under a bondage, the effects of which will remain until the

Resurrection. All things will be made new, including a New Heaven and New Earth. The glories of the present

world are many and amazing, but not worthy to be compared with what will come. God has just begun to

astound us for His glory.

***The Spirit Himself prays for us.*** vv. 26-27

It is not that we sometimes know how to pray, for we do not. When we do pray, however, the Spirit reinterprets those prayers according to God’s will. When we pray, “Thy will be done,” we are placing our-selves under His good and perfect will.

***Every single thing that happens to you is permitted in preparation for your glorious future.***v. 28

Another amazing truth, almost too good to be true. It takes some meditation, but the security and assurance of this verse envelops us when we believe it, transforming any trial into treasure.

Let’s ask ourselves what we need to do in order to keep a proper perspective. . .

***Am I truly listening to God or advising Him?***

It may sound strange, but our fallen nature desires to tell God what to do. We will never grow in grace as God intents as long as we think that we know better than He does what we need. 1 Peter 2:22-25

***Am I trusting God or fearing circumstances?***

Faith is not an abstract idea reserved for Sunday morning meditation. It is a hard-hitting awareness that (1) we are at war with Satan, the world, and our own flesh, and (2) that this world is passing away and will give way to God’s righteous Kingdom. 1 Cor. 7:30, 31

***Am I thriving as God’s child, or begging as an orphan?***

Are you clinging to make-believe “independence” in this world or looking forward to God’s triumph in the next? 1 John 2:15-17