

CO-HEIRS WITH CHRIST

Part 10 Romans Chapter Eight

Romans 8:17

... If children, then **heirs—heirs of God** and [also] joint heirs with Christ (Risen) if indeed we suffer with Him, [in order] that we may also be glorified ~~together~~ [with Him].

WE ARE HEIRS OF GOD THE FATHER.

THE MOMENT YOU BELIEVED YOU RECEIVED YOUR BIRTHRIGHT.

This is mind-blowing Grace. To think that not only has God positioned us with Christ in the Heavens ... that He's also breathed into us a new nature like His own ... that He's given us every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms ... that He has called us His sons ... but that now (as we see here) **WE HAVE ALSO RECEIVED THE BIRTHRIGHT OF THE FIRST BORN SON.** This means, WE ENTERED INTO THE STATUS OF THE FIRST BORN SON OF THE MOST POWERFUL KING IN ALL TIME AND ETERNITY. Immediately, you became an heir of God the Father and a Joint Heir with Jesus Christ ...

THIS HEIRSHIP IS NOT ACCORDING TO YOUR WORKS.

This privileged position has nothing at all to do with your success or failure here in this present age ... but is entirely based upon your privileged New-Birthright.

You didn't earn it ... you were born again into it. You instantly became an heir to the greatest riches and the greatest kingdom ever known.

THIS HEIRSHIP CANNOT BE LOST.

*Worldly kings have changed their minds and many of their appointed heirs have died ... but this inheritance is preserved for you, and you are preserved for it – You **CANNOT** ever lose it as Peter states ...*

1 Peter 1:3-5 **SLIDE**

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope **through the resurrection of Jesus Christ** from the dead, ⁴ to an incorruptible inheritance ... undefiled, that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, ⁵ who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*

HEIRS (klēronomoi) = getting by apportionment i.e. an inheritor; by implication, a possessor.

Titus 3:7 Berean Literal Bible

... Having been justified by His grace, **we would become heirs** with the hope of eternal life.

BUT IT DOESN'T END THERE. THIS GETS EVEN MORE PROFOUND ...

WE ARE ALSO ... CO-HEIRS WITH CHRIST

Romans 8:17 **SLIDE**

*... If children, then heirs—heirs of God and [also] **joint heirs with Christ (risen)** if indeed we suffer with Him, [in order to] also be glorified ~~together~~ [with Him].*

As well as being a unique heir of the Father ... our verse goes on to tell us (on the other hand) we are also **joint heirs with Christ**.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BEING AN HEIR OF THE FATHER AND A CO-HEIR WITH CHRIST?

CO-HEIRS (*synklēronomoi*) = A joint heir, participant. a co-heir, i.e. participant in common

THE DIFFERENCE IS: AS AN HEIR OF THE FATHER, WE KNOW WE WILL ONE DAY RECEIVE OUR INHERITANCE, BUT BEING A CO-HEIR WITH JESUS MEANS WE HAVE ENTERED INTO IT ALL **NOW!**

YOU SEE, JESUS CHRIST HAS ALREADY ENTERED INTO HIS INHERITANCE AND RECEIVED EVERYTHING PROMISED TO HIM ... **NOW.**

SLIDE JESUS HAS ALREADY RECEIVED HIS INHERITANCE.

HE INHERITED IMMEASURABLE WEALTH OF GLORY.

Luke 24:26 **SLIDE**

*Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into **His glory?***

NB: THIS WEALTH IS '**THE RICHES OF HIS GLORY**'. (Ephesians 1:18)

NOT JUST A SHINIER VERSION OF WHAT WE HAVE HERE ... NOT JUST MORE OF THE SAME.

We used to sing, 'I've got a mansion ... I'll walk the streets that are pure as gold'.

WE THINK IN THESE TERMS ... BUT THIS IS FAR RICHER.

HIS GLORY IS HIS EXPRESS IMAGE ... the beauty of holiness ... His extreme goodness.

MOSES WAS 'GLORY BURNED'. He only saw the back part of God and had to wear a veil so people couldn't look upon his glowing face.

SLIDE Romans 8:17 means, because you are a co-heir with Christ, you have entered into his inheritance **with Him**. This means you can start to receive portions of this wealth of glory **here and now**. We can begin to embrace this glorious inheritance ...

IT IS GIVEN TO US PROPORTIONATELY as we live our lives here today.

IN EPHESIANS PAUL CALLS IT 'A PLEDGE' OR DEPOSIT OF OUR INHERITANCE'

Ephesians 1:13-14 NIV **SLIDE**

*And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal [sealed with], the promised Holy Spirit, who is **a deposit [PLEDGE] guaranteeing our inheritance** until the redemption of those who are God's possession--to the praise of his glory.*

Pledge (*arrabōn*) = **part of the purchase-money or property given in advance as security for the rest** ... (See also 2 Corinthians 1:22 and 2 Corinthians 5:5.)

NOW WE COME TO AN UNUSUAL TWIST IN THE ROAD ... WE HIT SUFFERING

Romans 8:17 SLIDE

*... If children, then heirs—heirs of God and [also] joint heirs with Christ (risen) if indeed **we suffer (whilst being) with Him (as a Co-heir)**, we may also be glorified ~~together~~ [with Him].
Literally: in order to be also glorified with Him.*

THIS IS NOT SOME SPECIAL SUFFERING ... LIKE REDEMPTIVE SUFFERING that is supposed to produce salvation or sanctification and glory ... suffering does not do that.

THIS IS NOT ONLY SUFFERING FOR CHRIST IN PERSECUTION although it includes that ...

THIS IS GENERAL SUFFERING: OUR DAY TO DAY STRUGGLES THAT WE ALL GO THROUGH HERE AND NOW.

SLIDE WHAT'S PAUL SAYING HERE?

Since we have also entered into Christ's inherited glory with Him above ... now, when we suffer down here ... we are still with Him above, enabling his glory to start to manifest in our lives right where we are ... right in the middle of the trouble and disappointment... because we are with Him.

**NOTICE IN OUR TEXT HOW MANY TIMES THE PHRASE 'WITH HIM' IS USED.
IT IS USED 3 TIMES**

Romans 8:17 SLIDE

... If children, then heirs—heirs of God and [also] joint heirs with Christ and even though we suffer with Him [we shall also be] glorified with Him [in our circumstance].

We are joint heirs with Him ... When we suffer we are still with Him and as a result, we will be glorified with Him ... here on Earth.

SUFFERING DOESN'T PRODUCE THE GLORY ... BUT BEING WITH HIM IN HIS GLORY MANIFESTS THIS GLORY IN OUR CIRCUMSTANCES.

THIS CO-HEIRSHIP WITH CHRIST ... MEANS WE ARE LOCKED IN WITH JESUS IN HEAVEN AND HERE ON EARTH AND NOTHING CAN SEPARATE US FROM OUR POSITION IN HIM.

SLIDE We are co-heirs with Christ in glory and though we have tribulation here below, His glory will manifest here below in our daily struggle because we are co-heirs with Christ above.

TROUBLE AND DISAPPOINTMENT

ALL PEOPLE IN THIS LIFE SUFFER NEGATIVE CIRCUMSTANCES ...

HAVE YOU NOTICED CHRISTIANS AREN'T EXEMPT

ALL CHRISTIANS STILL STRUGGLE WITH CIRCUMSTANCES IN LIFE HERE AND NOW ...

I was talking to my daughter Gabby about this last evening and she said, 'Yes dad, so many younger people suffer from anxiety ... social anxiety ... financial anxiety ...'

Then there's depression ... disappointment ... physical sickness ... **BROKEN RELATIONSHIPS**
Then there are circumstances ... our financial struggles ... our battles with health ... getting older ...

Social struggles ... failure ... criticism ... Pastors and Christians let you down so you get bitter and twisted ...

- Some people leave the church ... fight back ... or try harder ... THAT'S NOT THE WAY.
- Some Christian's pray, 'Lord take me out of the negative situation ... Heal me of this sickness'. BUT GOD DOESN'T ... HE WANTS YOU TO SHINE IN IT.
- *Some of us have been rebuking the enemy ... confessing scripture ... fasting and praying but GOD WANTS YOU TO KNOW HE'S AWARE OF THESE THINGS IN YOUR LIFE AND THAT HE'S MADE PROVISION FOR YOU IN THEM.*

YOU CANNOT CHANGE THE NEGATIVE CIRCUMSTANCES BY CONFESSION ... OR BY COMMANDING AND REBUKING THEM ... or by fasting and prayer or some other spiritual principle ... or by denying them. (I know at least 2 people who have died denying they had cancer and refusing treatment.)

WHEN JESUS CALMED THE SEA AND REBUKED THE DISCIPLE, *He didn't rebuke them because they were supposed to calm the sea. (They couldn't do that.) He rebuked them because ... THEY DIDN'T APPRECIATE THAT THEY WERE WITH HIM.*
This was Jesus' Gig ... He organised it ... He gave the direction ... They came WITH HIM ... HE DIDN'T GO WITH THEM.

CHANGING THE CIRCUMSTANCE IS NOT THE ISSUE HERE ... BEING WITH HIM IS THE ISSUE.

NB: PAUL SAYS, WE GO THROUGH SUFFERING WITH HIM, AND DOESN'T SAY, HE GOES THROUGH SUFFERING WITH US.

It's true that Jesus our Shepherd **is with us** through our valleys of shadows ... He enters in with us to comfort, strengthen and encourage us ...

BUT OUR TEXT IS SAYING MORE THAN THAT ...

THIS IS NOT THE SHEPHERD WALKING WITH US ... THIS IS US BEING WITH CHRIST THE KING IN HIS RISEN GLORY AND GOING THROUGH SUFFERING WHILE WE ARE WITH HIM.

1 Peter 1:6-8 **SLIDE**

In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials (nobody's saying trials aren't grievous),

⁷that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honour, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,

⁸whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory.

THIS IS LITERALLY - Joy that hath been glorified ... WHICH IS INEXPRESSABLE HERE.

A joy that has reached its ultimate pitch ... that has come from the place of infinite glory.

So your house burnt down ... your son got arrested for drugs ... your husband left you ... you crashed the car ... you fell and broke your shoulder ... you got fired from your job. YET ... THE REAL 'YOU' IS NOT IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES ... 'YOU' ARE LOCKED IN WITH THE RISEN CHRIST! You may be physically going through stuff here, but... you know your true self in Christ is with Christ in His risen glory.

THIS MAKES YOU UNDEFEATABLE NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS TO YOU ...

Paul is saying ... what you suffer here in this earth not only cannot change where you are at 'with Christ' in glory, but it also allows you to begin to receive that inherited glory you have already gained ... right here and now in your circumstance.

HERE AND NOW YOU CAN START TO RECEIVE HIS INHERITED GLORY ...

2 Corinthians 4:17-18 SLIDE

For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory ...

PERSECUTION

1 Peter 4:14

*If you are reproached [insulted or reviled] for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for **the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.***

HIS GLORY NOW STARTING TO SHINE OUT THROUGH YOU IN BLINDING LIGHT ... IN INEXPRESSIBLE JOY ... EVEN WHILE YOU ARE STILL IN THE TRIAL.

Proverbs 4:18 King James 2000 Bible SLIDE

... The path of the just is as the shining light, that shines more and more unto the perfect day.

WE NOW START TO GLOW IN THE STRUGGLE, ALLOWING CHANGE TO HAPPEN FROM THE INSIDE OUT

BEFORE WE SEE THE CIRCUMSTANCES TRANSFORMED ...

WE ARE TRANSFORMED IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES ... LET IT HAPPEN!

ACCORDING TO THE AMOUNT OF TRAUMA YOU GO THROUGH ... THERE WILL BE AN EXCESSIVE AMOUNT OF HIS GLORY TO EQUIP YOU ... TRANSFORM YOU ... CLOTHE YOU ...

THE PACKAGE

*So a package turns up at your door. You open the door and there it is with a big label - 'TROUBLE AND DISAPPOINTMENT'. Immediately you start to get excited. 'Fantastic' you say, 'I'VE GOT A NEW PACKAGE OF TRIAL AND DISAPPOINTMENT! I can't wait to see the Glory of God that comes with it.' **SLIDE***

So you take it inside and call your friend ... 'Hey, you'll never guess what I received today ... I got a new package of trouble and disappointment. I'm so excited ... because I know it will contain an even greater packet of His Glory. No, I haven't opened it yet ... I'm just waiting for the right moment to get the full impact, but it's going to be glorious ... I can't wait.'

Romans 8:18 SLIDE

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