

## Parson to Person

### ROMANS 8 PART 5

*“For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, ‘Abba, Father.’ The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs— heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together. 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. For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. <sup>24</sup> For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance. Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God” (Romans 8:15–27 NKJV).*

There is no question in the mind of any thinking American Christian (moreover, any thinking believer from any country) that the whole creation is groaning with the birth pangs of sin and judgment. The world has been suffering from the judgment of God—as the result of sin—since the fall of man. This suffering is both a blessing and a curse. For the thinking believer, judgment is a reminder of the effects of sin and provides a hope of future deliverance. Those who have no hope but nonetheless feel the frustration of the times are simply ignorant of the hope we as believers have in Jesus. This is a terrific time to share how perfectly the Bible lays out the present and future plan God has for the whole of creation.

Indeed, there is great sadness for those who have no hope and continue in rebellion against the clearly declared plan and purposes of God. But for the believer, there is a hope that does (or should) give every believer confidence and faith for that which is to come.

The timeline of present and future events is as follows:

1) We are living in the Church Age which is blessed by the Gospel of Grace and the Gospel of the future coming Kingdom. The joy of every believer is to glorify God by believing the Gospel and by the goal of its proclamation. Also true of this age is that the present dispensation (like all preceding it) is marked by the rebellion of unbelieving man and the present and future consequences mankind’s rebellion inspires.

False doctrine is a clear and present danger in the Church Age. Moreover, false doctrine coupled together with man’s rebellion against the holy and righteous standards of God has led to the manifold problems we are now facing all around the world.

According to Scripture, the rebellion of this age will continue until what believers know as the “blessed hope” (the Rapture of the Church), and at which time unbelievers will suffer by virtue of the same—as a divine worldwide judgment. Yes, while believers experience blessing, the same event will be of great calamity to those left behind.

2) The Rapture will bring to fruition what Paul referred to as the quickening of the Church Age believer’s mortal bodies. At the same time, the Rapture will make room for the unbelieving world to have what they have longed for: a worldwide, fallen, human centric, economic governance. We know this as humanistic globalism! This global governance (likened to what man desired at Babylon) will have a short lived “peace” followed by judgments unlike anything the world has ever seen. The judgments will be so severe and devastating that if Jesus were to refrain from coming back—thus ending the dispensation (known as The Tribulation)—no flesh would be saved. Mankind would be completely annihilated. The end of the dispensation will come when Jesus returns at The Second Coming.

3) The Second Coming of Jesus will put an end to the Tribulation and at the same time provide Israel rescue (by judgment against her enemies). At that time Jesus will bring a revival to Israel and bring to fruition the Messianic blessings promised her—fulfilling the promises contained throughout the Old Testament, in particular those contained in the Davidic Covenant. At that time Jesus will judge the nations and damn those whom He condemns while making provision for those He will choose to rescue (see Matthew 25:31–46). Those deemed worthy will enter into a period of time known as the Messianic Kingdom (aka the Millennial Reign of Jesus).

4) The Millennial Reign of Christ will last (as specifically stated in Scripture) 1000 years. At this time Jesus will serve as the rightful King of Israel—and the whole world. He will enforce His ways upon the world only to be rejected late in the dispensation by many who (by rebellion) will suffer the final earthly judgment (see Revelation 20:7–10). Following the

Millennial Kingdom there will be a final “divine worldwide judgment.” This is the Great White Throne Judgment—where all unbelievers (from all of history) will be cast into the lake of fire (see Revelation 20:11–15).

These things (as awesome as they are) provide warning to the unbeliever but hope beyond description to those who trust Jesus for salvation. The Rapture of the Church, redemption of the body, and an end to all this travail is the end Paul had in mind here in chapter 8—for the Roman believers—and for all who believe.

Until the Rapture, we travail in birth pangs—waiting for the redemption of the body. For now, we suffer with patience, proclaiming the hope we have in Jesus.

Be not afraid, my dear friends. Jesus is coming for His bride very soon—as suggested by the perilous and perplexing times we are presently enduring. Look up, your redemption draws near.

I love you all, Pastor Paul