

## Parson to Person

### ROMANS 8 PART 7

*“For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now”* (Romans 8:22 NKJV).

*“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. And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.*

*What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? Who shall bring a charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written: ‘For Your sake we are killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.’ Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord”* (Romans 8:26–39 NKJV).

The groanings of the creation began at the fall. When Adam and Eve disobeyed the Lord, suffering was set in motion—only to be assisted by the first divine worldwide judgment known as “the Curse.” Sickness, disease, death, frustrations, disharmony, shortfall and futility, diminished fruitfulness, famine, pestilence, and even earthquakes were among the many things the creation suffered as the result of sin and the curse. This pain was what Paul was referring to when he wrote, *“whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now”* (vs. 22). However, he also explained that *“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”* (vss. 21–22a) and thereby reminded his audience that this “moment” in creation was temporary and that there was a future deliverance for every believer.

That being said, he also added that the Holy Spirit is interceding for the believer and that the Father attends to those prayers—and answers them in accordance to the predetermined purpose and foreknowledge of God. Simply stated, the three persons of the Godhead—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—predetermined (before time began) the method of salvation and eternal destiny of every believer. This destiny involves the redemption, justification, and sanctification process, thereby guaranteeing the end result intended by God. This is articulated in the passage found in verses 28–30 where Paul wrote, *“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.”* (Romans 8:28–30 NKJV). Herein we can see that Paul points out the full process ending with our future glorification—and note, he puts “glorified” in the aorist tense in Greek and denotes a snapshot in summary fashion—thus as past tense for those of us who live in the time continuum but aorist from the eternal perspective of God. Therefore, we can see that in the salvific process and divine foreknowledge of God is a finished work. Furthermore, this predetermined destiny cannot be thwarted, and thus Paul explains that there is no need to fear either visible or invisible forces the believer may fear. It is God who alone is for us and therefore cannot be hindered, prevented or stopped. Simply stated, God is the one who has started our salvation process and will finish it. Moreover, this salvation has been provided by the manifested love of God. Whatever it is the believer may fear, we can put our fears aside and rest in the Lord.

The eschatological aspect of this process (in the time continuum) climaxes with all of creation (not presently groaning) being *“delivered from the bondage of corruption.”* Therefore, we can see that the believer, who will ultimately experience glorification, will be fitted to live forever in the glorified state of the world to come: the new heaven and new earth.

I love you all,  
Pastor Paul