

Romans 8 : 17–18 - Rich Heirs Will Suffer

TSK, HebrewLexicon, Rienecker, Steele, Gaebelin, Handfuls, Vincent, Trapp, Robertson, Poole, Newell, PNT, Henry, Koning, Godet, Genva, Calvin
Brothers and Sisters in the Lord: **You saw last time the evidence of being alive!**

You are **led and assisted by the Spirit of God.**

You are **not afraid of danger** around you, no matter how bad it is.

You are adopted in a living breathing family.

And you have **undeniable assurance in your heart** you are alive and belong to God.

But as long as you live in this life, you will not always have good things happening to you. Rather, **you must expect troubles – sometimes, very serious troubles.**

That's where the Apostle Paul will lead us today

Our headings are:

Christians are very rich heirs

Christians, as heirs, will suffer

Christians, as heirs, will receive more rewards for suffering

Our goals are: **That you will expect to face troubles, but that you will do so with grace and poise, knowing you are rewarded not only for enduring troubles, but by the way in which you endure troubles.**

Christians are very rich heirs

17 and **if children, then heirs — heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ**

1. Christians are not only alive, they are heirs of God.

The Apostle Paul used the word “children” ...not sons...to clarify that **men and women have rights to Christ's inheritance.**

2. But what does “being an heir of God” mean?

It means one who has been adopted by God has inherited God's possession; he has eternal life and heaven! The Christian has God and all his needs are met.

Look what God said to Abraham, to the Levites, and what the Psalmist acknowledged:

Genesis 15:1 After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. **I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward.**"

Numbers 18:20 Then the LORD said to Aaron: "You shall have no inheritance in their land, nor shall you have any portion among them; **I am your portion and your inheritance** among the children of Israel.

Psalms 16:5 O LORD, **You are the portion of my inheritance** and my cup; You maintain my lot.

3. How do Christians become heirs of God?

Christians become heirs of God by becoming God's sons and being adopted. What wealth! Though guilty, though lost, though wretched, though a son of Adam the rebel, men can become sons of God again-living, breathing sons with eternal life!

They were delivered from bondage, their fear of condemnation removed, and they were given an inheritance!

Galatians 4:6 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" 7 **Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.**

According to Roman law, **adopted sons had all rights of a natural born son.** So Apostle Paul used this term to explain a Christian's position with God!

Also note, not "if children of Abraham," or "if circumcised," or "if baptized" then heirs! If children, then heirs!

4. Christians become heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ.

Jesus inherited life for his children by his resurrection and he shared that inheritance with his children, so they were joint heirs.

Hebrews 1:2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, **whom He has appointed heir of all things,** through whom also He made the worlds;

Romans 6:4 Therefore we were **buried with Him through baptism into death,** that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of

the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Under Jewish law, the firstborn son was given a double-portion of the inheritance, but under Christ's law, all Christians become joint heirs with him.

And it was a sufficient inheritance.

None ran out of benefits!

5. Lessons:

a. Your inheritance is a gift; it is not earned.

You simply have to receive the inheritance.

This is why Christianity opposes the teaching of every other religion on the planet!

They all teach you must work to please God. No work is good enough to save!

b. See how gracious God is to you, though you were once his enemy!

He not only adopted you, he made you an heir!

And he did not just make you an heir, you are a joint heir with Christ, the one who made heaven and earth...and owns all things!

c. Consider the greatness of your inheritance!

Things like land, houses, cars, retirement savings, or power are cheap, simple things!
God gives great things!

He gave you himself!

You are very, very rich: Old or young. Man or woman. Jew or Gentile!

d. You may have to suffer to increase your rewards...

Revelation 21:7 "He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.

Christians, as heirs, will suffer

...if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

1. This "if" is used in the sense of certainty, and it is better translated "since."

(If we are here already, we'd better sing some songs.) So since they are joint heirs and united with Christ, they can expect they will be united with Christ in his suffering.

This is taught time and time again, showing suffering was normal.

Philippians 3:10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,

2 Corinthians 11:23 Are they ministers of Christ? — I speak as a fool — I am more: in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often. 24 From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one. 25 Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; 26 in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; 27 in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness — 28 besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches.

Romans 8:36 As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter."

The writer of Hebrews pointed out this suffering for Jesus was an old Old Testament occurrence as well.

Hebrews 11:35 Women received their dead raised to life again. And others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. 36 Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. 37 They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented — 38 of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth.

2. Jesus himself warned his children that they should expect suffering to come on them.

John 15:20 "Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' **If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you.** If they kept My word, they will keep yours also.

3. But Christian sufferings will be limited; it has to be limited based on the promise of the Lord Jesus.

Someone characterized Christian suffering as **"having to drink a drop of vinegar in an ocean of wine."**

Basil, a Dutch martyr said when the fires were lit and he was about to be burned: **"Ah, what a small pain is this to be compared to the glory to come!"**

4. Lessons:

a. Expect suffering. This is part of your training. This teaches you to pray. This builds your character – like in the military. Painful training is necessary for success.

b. Suffering for truth shows your unity with Christ. Most run away when there is suffering.

c. Our Charismatic brothers who promote the idea that if you are godly, everything will be smooth are not diligent in reading or believing the Bible.

Don't be too close to them. They might make you feel guilty by saying you lack faith if you have troubles in life.

Christians, as heirs, will receive more rewards for suffering

18 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.

1. The adopted child will suffer, but he will be rewarded by his heavenly Father.

Keep in mind, however, **this is not referring to unjust sufferings many Christians bring on themselves for saying or doing dumb things!**

But enduring unjust suffering will bring a great reward.

2 Timothy 2:12 **If we endure, We shall also reign with Him.** If we deny Him, He also will deny us.

2. How will the adopted child be rewarded?

a. Everyone who trusts in Christ for salvation will enter into heaven, but not

everyone in heaven will receive the same reward.

b. The reward in heaven is given based on obedience...faithfulness to the tasks given by God.

c. One of the greatest tasks given by God for which man will receive a reward is suffering for Jesus.

This not only includes the **degree of suffering**, but your **attitude in suffering**.

3. How much reward will a Christian get?

Apostle Paul said he must consider or “**make an account**” of the suffering. It is a mathematical term.

So he suggests putting one’s suffering on a scale and see that the rewards far outweigh the suffering.

The point: **The Christian’s trial will be minimal compared with the splendor of his reward.**

2Corinthians 4: 17 **For our light affliction**, which is but for a moment, is working for us a **far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory**,

1Peter 4:13 but rejoice to the extent that you **partake of Christ’s sufferings**, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be **glad with exceeding joy**.

And yet, no one knows the details of the glory for the details of it have not yet been revealed.

1 Corinthians 2:9 But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him."

4. Lessons:

a. Heaven will reward you for all unjust sufferings you face in this life. God misses nothing.

b. Be encouraged to accept your suffering...even as Jesus and Moses did.

Hebrews 12:2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith,

who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.

Hebrews 11:26 esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; **for he looked to the reward.**

c. The world thinks suffering means God is absent and they try to avoid suffering at all costs, even compromising what they believe, but God's children know better.

Suffering is the reality, **but it is only temporary and bearable.**

d. You will receive rewards for your work as a mother, a politician, a friend, or a deacon.

Even the smallest work brings great reward.

Even a cup of water you give will bring you a reward.

Conclusion:

Christians are heirs and rich beyond imagination. They are **heirs of God!**

Their rewards are indescribable. But they can **expect to face persecution** from wicked men, even to death.

Their inheritance and rewards are coming.

Beloved in the Lord Jesus:

1. Face your suffering with grace and poise, knowing you are suffering for your Savior and knowing there is a great reward waiting for you.

2. Know the world is watching how you suffer.

Don't let them see you angry with God for the troubles you go through.

Let them see how much you love God for the grace he has shown to you through Jesus.

Remember the little eyes in the home are watching you too.

3. Don't hate those who cause you to suffer. Pray for God's grace on them. Love your enemies. God did!

Finally: If you aren't a Christian, you may or may not have troubles in this life, but there is hell to pay after this life.

Hell is an eternally horrible place.

If you want to have future glory, free from eternal horrors, in the presence of God, ask God to adopt you as his children because Jesus died for sinners!