

Romans 8.18-25

Earnest Expectation

We have been examining Romans 8 in order to gain some understanding of the power and purpose of hope. It is a wonderful time of year to consider hope, as we celebrate the birth of Christ. His birth was the culmination of millennia of hope, as the promises of God were fulfilled. However, many missed the promise of His coming and did not find the hope in which they should have delighted with all that they were... they missed it because they did not understand the nature of the promises, nor the nature of the hope itself. They saw the promises of God through the lens of their own imagination rather than through what God had told them was coming. It is a common problem even today. We have far more light of revelation than did the people of Jesus' day, and yet even so there is no lack of people who fail to understand the reason for His coming and the hope that it brings us for eternity. They insist on making His promises about the now, about this physical world of sin, and about the merely fleshly enjoyments which it offers them. When we speak of Christmas and hope, it

is often perverted in people's minds to mean a time of happiness brought on by lights and music, family and fun... don't get me wrong; anyone who knows me knows that I am a sucker for that stuff and I love the whole celebratory season from the tree to the music, I love the whole thing. But not one of those things by themselves is the reason for our hope. The reason for our hope is the promise of God. It is the promise that His plan is going along as He has intended and that He will finally complete what He has begun in the coming of Christ the first time. We celebrate in hope because God can be trusted, and even the earth knows that fact. It is why the scripture says that the whole earth groans waiting for the promised revelation and consummation of God's full promise to us; the promise of restoration.

I. TIME OF RENEWAL

Matthew 24:36–44

a. God knows the hour, God knows the purposed intended time and nothing with either hasten nor delay the day of His coming. It will

be at the appointed hour and in the promised fashion.

b. Return of Christ

Acts 1:9–11

⁹Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. ¹⁰ And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, ¹¹ who also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.”

Revelation 6:12–17

c. Judgement of man -

2Corinthians 5:9–11

Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. ¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. ¹¹ Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences.

d. Content of the Judgment

Revelation 20:11–15

1. Works (for rewards)
2. Life - the work of Christ. Are you found in the lamb's book of life?

a. The hope of the Gospel –

God has made a way for us to be reconciled to Himself

b. The message of the Gospel – you MUST be reconciled and found in Christ. No other way has been made nor will any other be accepted

c. The Facts of the Gospel

- i. Jesus Christ, eternal God of Eternal God
- ii. Born of a virgin according to the scriptures
- iii. Lived a life that satisfied the righteous requirements of the law
- iv. Never sinned, completely fulfilled every command
- v. Died for OUR sin, the righteous lamb taking on the unrighteousness of His people
- vi. Was raised because of our justification to demonstrate His worth, power and glory and to declare that God has indeed accepted His death in the place of

all who place their trust in His work
and God's promise.

vii. Will one day return for His own and
to set all things right.

e. Restoration/Re-creation

II. CREATION'S RENEWAL

a. Destruction of the old

2 Peter 3:1–13

Revelation 20:11–21:8

Revelation 21:22–22:5

Perish by fire, burned up at the coming of
God in judgment

b. Re-creation of a new heavens and a new
earth

c. Place where God dwells among His people

d. Differences

- i. God dwelling among us - He is the source of all light and glory, which means that nothing can compete with Him. Thus nothing else will be needed...
- ii. no sun
- iii. No moon
- iv. No night
- v. No sea
- vi. No evil

III. REVELATION OF RENEWAL

the Sons of God

- a. Present Manifestation - there is a current, present revealing which shows how we do not exactly FIT with the present age and its thoughts, practices and beliefs...
 - i. Love the law of God –

Psalm 119:113

*¹¹³ I hate the double-minded, But I love
Your law.*

Psalm 119:165

*¹⁶⁵ Great peace have those who love
Your law, And nothing causes them to
stumble.*

- ii. Fear the Lord and Meditate upon His name

Malachi 3.16-18

- iii. Love the Brethren -

1John 3:14

*We know that we have passed from
death to life, because we love the
brethren. He who does not love his
brother abides in death.*

- b. We also will be made new –

- i. New bodies fit for the presence of God in glory
- ii. New hearts and minds that no longer desire sin in any way
- iii. No remaining sin nature,

- iv. No defilement of the flesh
- c. The purpose of God in all that we lived and endured will be revealed

Luke 8:17

*For nothing is secret that will not be revealed,
nor anything hidden that will not be known
and come to light.*

- a. The fullness of the plan of God
 - i. We will understand the why of all things
 - ii. We will see the wisdom of His way
 - iii. We will **agree** with all that He has done
- b. The sanctification of the saints
 - i. Made like unto Christ
 - ii. Fashioned in His image
 - iii. More than original creation

Romans 5.12-21

- c. The glory of the purpose

i. Revelation of Christ IN US

IV. MAXIMIZED GLORY OF CHRIST

b. The elder brother and firstborn over all creation

Romans 8.28-30

c. The power of His beauty to transform us
(and all creation)

1John 3:1–3

d. The wonder, splendor and absolute worth OF that transformation

2Corinthians 3.12-4.18