

Pt 24 Romans 8:19-23, Earnest Expectation

A sermon series by Pastor Byron Chesney, Porchlight Baptist Church www.pbcknox.com

Romans 8:19-27

19 For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.

20 For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope,

21 Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

22 For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.

23 And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

Last week we looked only at verse 18 of this chapter which says:

Romans 8:18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

We spent around 45 minutes showing from the Bible the truths concerning Christian suffering.

This morning we pick back up in verse 19 which is expounding more upon the reason for what was said in verse 18. We see again the word “For” at the beginning of this verse. I explained last time that Paul uses this pattern to build upon what he just said. He does that 10-times in Chapter 8 alone.

But, here in verse 19 we read: **19 For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.**

The word creature that is used here is very interesting. In our English language we immediately associate a creature with something usually non-human, usually an animal of some kind. But the word “**Creature**” actually means “**something created.**” A creature can be an animal, a human being or even an object – if it has been created it can be called a creature. God cannot be called a creature because He was not created, he has always existed. He created everything.

It says this in **John 1:1-3** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 The same was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

Obviously, anything created can be called a creature. But we also see in the Bible that people are called creatures. That is what Jesus called unsaved people when he gave His Great Commission to the Disciples in **Mark 16:15** And he said unto them, **Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.**

Then, once someone is saved, he becomes a “**New Creature.**”

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a **new creature**: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

In essence we were “**re-created.**”

Here in our opening text in Romans 8:19, when Paul uses the word “**creature**” I believe he is referring to all of creation and those who are **SAVED**. He couldn't be speaking of the **UNSAVED** because they certainly are not waiting on the manifestation of the sons of God. The lost could care less about God or the sons of God because they hate God and everything associated with Him.

I think it is reasonable to say when he says “**creature**” he is referring to **all of creation along with the saved.**

Paul writes: **For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth**

I think we all know what it means to **earnestly expect** something don't we? The word “**earnest**” means “**eager, longing, desiring.**” And of course, **expectation** means “**expecting, looking for.**”

It reminds me of when I was a kid growing up and my dad was a Knox County School teacher. He got paid once a month on the 25th. I remember how we used to get up on payday and get ready and wait for the mailman to bring dad's paycheck. Our couch was in front of a large window that looked out over the front yard and the road. My sister Pam and I would get on our knees backwards on the couch and stare out the window and wait on the mailman. We knew he would show up around 12:00 in the day. One payday we were there at the window in earnest expectation for the mailman and he drove right past our mailbox. Have you heard that phrase “**all dressed up and nowhere to go?**” That was us, there we were all dressed up and ready to head out the door and hit the town and just like that we were crushed. Surely there must have been a mistake!

I can't remember why the mailman didn't deliver dad's paycheck that day, but I sure remember him driving by our mailbox. We were earnestly expecting and waiting but were let down. You can rest assured the Lord Jesus is NOT going to let us down.

Paul writes here in **Romans 8:19b** that the creation is earnestly expecting and waiting **for the manifestation of the sons of God.** That word **manifestation** means **appearing, coming, or revealing.**

It is for the appearing of **the sons of God.**

Who are the sons of God? Well, we talked about that last time. Remember what it said in verses 16 and 17: **Romans 8:16-17** The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: 17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with *him*, that we may be also glorified together.

If we are saved, then we are made children of God. Children of God are sons of God. I know in the Old Testament angels were sometimes referred to as sons of God but here in the New Testament it is NOT referring to angels but is referring to **Saints**, we usually refer to Saints as **Christians**, and just as it said in verse 17 there is going to be a day when all those that are saved will also be glorified with Him.

We know from reading our Bibles that when Jesus returns the 2nd time he will be bringing along with him his Saints.

1 Thessalonians 3:13 To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.

Colossians 3:4 When Christ, *who is* our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

Jude 1:14-16 And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, 15 To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard *speeches* which ungodly sinners have spoken against him. 16 These are murmurers, complainers, walking

after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage.

We don't talk about this much but our church, Porchlight Baptist Church, believes in the pre-tribulation rapture of the Church which we believe will occur before the 1,000 year reign of Christ on this earth (also called the millennial reign) so we are pre-millennial in our beliefs (meaning we believe the Church will be raptured before the millennial reign).

We also fully believe Christ is going to establish an earthly kingdom in which He will rule and reign over all the earth and all those that are saved will also rule and reign with him for those 1,000 years. We believe this to be a literal 1,000 years and it has not occurred yet and it is not the time we are currently in. Believe it or not there are those that teach the millennial reign has already happened and some teach we are presently in the millennial reign – both of those are incorrect and we can certainly prove that from the Bible.

The truth is, all of creation has been groaning and has been under great stress and turmoil ever since the first sin was committed by man. Yes, sin not only brought a curse upon every man and woman but also a curse on all of creation itself. We see that in our next verse back in **Romans 8:20** For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope,

God Himself made creation subject to vanity – meaning cursed. We find that in

Genesis 3:17-19

17 And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: **cursed is the ground for thy sake**; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;

18 Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field;

19 In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

Think about it. When God created the earth, He created a perfect place. There were no earthquakes, tornadoes, floods, droughts, or dead things. Nothing ever died until Adam sinned. Then because of sin, things began dying. Things began to rot, decay, mold, mildew and disease.

Ever since then all of creation has groaned under the curse of sin and has been eagerly expecting things to be made right again. That cannot happen until the return of Christ and the manifestation of His Saints (the sons of God). That is what our next verses is talking about: **21 Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.**

We talk a lot about all the troubles of mankind because of sin but we need to remember that sin effects more than just mankind, it affects all of creation.

In this so-called "green" push that is going on these days, man thinks he can regulate and control things to restore the earth but all of man's efforts are useless.

You probably have heard about the legislation introduced by New York Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (AOC) called "The Green New Deal." Their goal is to reach net-zero greenhouse emissions in a decade.

They introduced all kinds of crazy pie in the sky stuff like getting rid of airplanes, cars, oil, and gas and have everything run off of zero-emission renewable energy (electricity). They even mention the horrible emissions given off by cow flatulence. We must get rid of all those gassy cows!!!

Listen, all of that is just as stupid as the people that came up with it. Things are just going to continue to get worse and worse. The environment is going to continue to decay. The air is going to get more polluted each day.

There will never be a perfect earth again until the Lord comes, and the sons of God are manifested. Then all of creation is going to change.

2 Peter 3:10-13

10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,

12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

God is going to make the earth a paradise once more.

Isaiah 65:17 For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.

Isaiah 11:6-7 The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. 7 And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

All of this is what creation has been waiting for and it shall come to pass.

23 And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

Paul turns the attention off creation and places it directly upon us. Those that are saved. Those that will be appearing with him when he comes. Until that time comes, we will continue to groan within ourselves. Our bodies will continue failing and being diseased, cancer stricken and tired.

We too are in earnest expectation for His return, and He redeems us fully. We are already sons of God. We are already heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ but we will not experience the full glory of it all until he returns and redeems us.

I want to end this message by reading what Paul wrote in Ephesians.

Ephesians 1:3-14

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

- 7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;
- 8 Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence;
- 9 Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:
- 10 That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; *even* in him:
- 11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:
- 12 That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.
- 13 In whom ye also *trusted*, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,
- 14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

Meanwhile, friend, we will await in earnest expectation of the return of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.