

It is so good to see you tonight. In this study, we will be continuing further in chapter 8 with a focus on the wonderful facts and solid basis for our hope as Christians. The theme of this section is the believer's future glory which is seen in two main points. The first is the climax of God's plan for both his people and creation. The second part is God's provision for what we need in order to wait eagerly and patiently.

Let's now read Romans 8:18-30

1. What is Paul not hiding from us in verse 18? In other words, what will Christians inevitably endure? How does this sit with you?
2. What do you think Paul is trying to show us where he states, "The creation waits in eager expectation" Is there something similar to what Peter wrote in 1 Peter 1:4-5?
3. How does verses 20-22 inform us as to why creation desires to see the revelation of the children of God? What do you think this mean?
4. In verse 23 we read how believers are given the first fruits of the Spirit. This metaphor stems from the offering of the first part of the harvest to God. (See Exodus 23:16-19; Leviticus 2:12-14; Deuteronomy 26:10). However, in the Paul's writing, the direction is reversed, for God first has made Jesus the "first fruits" of our promised resurrection (See also 1 Corinthians 15:20-25). Do you think God has given us the Spirit as the foretaste of the glory that is awaiting us? Please discuss this.
5. Let's discuss this great piece of insight taken from the Life Application Commentary:

When we put our faith in Christ as Saviour, we **are saved** and we can **eagerly look forward to** the **freedom** we will have at Christ's return. We already have the presence of the Holy Spirit, who is unseen, but we must eagerly wait for our new bodies, which are also unseen. Our full redemption has not yet happened; it will happen when Christ returns. That is why it is still a **hope** for believers. Our salvation is both present and future. It is present because the moment we believe in Jesus Christ as Saviour we are saved ([Rom 3:21-26](#); [Rom 5:1-11](#); [Rom 6:1-11](#); [Rom 6:22-23](#)); our new life (eternal life) begins. But at the same time, we have not fully received all the benefits and blessings of salvation that will be ours when Christ's new Kingdom is completely established. While we can be confident of our salvation, we still **look forward** with hope and trust toward that complete change of body and personality that lies beyond this life.

6. Let's read a few other texts which show us how patience is the Spirit's fruit borne in our lives (Romans 5:3-4; James 1:3-4; 5:11; Revelation 13:10; 14:12)
7. In verse 26-27, how does the Spirit also help us? How does the Spirit intercede for us?
8. Romans 8:28 is one of the most quoted parts of New Testament Scripture. In view of what we have studied, what do you think this verse means?
9. In verse 29, what have we been conformed to?
10. Let's unpack the terminology of verse 30 and see how this shape our present and future activity as God's children.
11. What are taking home tonight from this study?
12. What has encouraged you?
13. Have you learnt anything new tonight?
14. Let's spend some time in prayer together