

*The Just Shall Live By Faith*  
Romans 8:18~25

There is Life...I don't know whether you've ever really given any thought to the LIFE in Creation... Everything around us, all of creation is alive...it contains LIFE. From the trees...to the grass...to all the vegetation...the flowers...these are LIVING THINGS... Not to mention the birds...all the animals... down to the tiniest insect... All of creation is ALIVE... We may not give it much thought, but every thing that has life is sustained by God. The beautiful sun, and the blessings of rain aren't just for us humans!

In this passage...Paul *personifies* creation! Paul says that “*All of Creation*” is longing for “*that Day!*” That great and *glorious day* that is coming!

In verse 18, Paul says...<sup>18</sup>*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.* (the glory we shall *behold*...)

**A reference to the time of the “*Fulfillment*” of the promise of God to His Children!**

The Day that we receive our “*inheritance*”, the day that we get everything that God has promised us!

The Day when our “*Faith*” becomes “*Reality!*”

The Day when what we have “*Lived For*”...we finally “*Lay hold to!*”

The day when all the hard work, all the sorrow, all the pain and suffering of this life, gives way to Unspeakable and Inexpressible Joy!

“*A Day*”...Paul says, “*that even All of Creation longs to see!*”

A very interesting passage... Beloved, we're not the only ones suffering from the effects of SIN...the whole creation suffers! Not only was the entire race of man affected by Adam's fall, but also the entire creation! As “*beautiful*” as creation is...it is nothing compared to what it will be! For the current creation is full of corruption, tainted by the effects of SIN.

Before the fall of Adam...It was a Paradise! Everything was perfect! There was no thorns, no decay, no death, no weeds, fruit and vegetables never rottened, water was pure, never needed treated...etc... But through the fall of Adam, the whole world, God's entire creation underwent corruption!

BUT... God has promised a “*New Heaven and a New Earth!*” And He has also promised us “*New Bodies*” to live in, glorified bodies! Bodies in which we will never feel aches and pains, no more suffering, just pure bliss!

★ It is this new heaven and new earth, this glorified body that we long for...

**It is this *promise* from God that we cling too while we wait here on earth!**

“*A promise*”, Paul says...*that Creation also **hopes in**...for in that day, it too will be glorified!*

Due to the 17<sup>th</sup> Century Language...the “*King James*” rendering of this passage just doesn't do it justice.

Listen to how another translation puts it...*For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the coming glory that will be revealed. Even Creation waits eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are. For on that day, thorns and thistles, sin, death and decay...the things that overcame the world against its will at God's command...will disappear! The world around us will share in the glorious freedom from SIN that God's Children will enjoy!*

(Vs 22) Paul says...<sup>22</sup>*For we know that the whole creation groans and travails in pain together until now. "Creation" is suffering "the pains of childbirth", but it will be delivered on that Day!*

(Vs 23) *And so will we...*<sup>23</sup>*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 says... We too are *suffering*, we too are undergoing "labor Pains!"

**But what gets us through all it... Is what we will receive in the end!**

It will be worth it...*after all!* I've never had a baby, but I know many women who have...and the pain that is involved is likely the greatest pain there is... BUT, ask any woman, and she'll tell you, that it is worth it all! As a matter of fact, Jesus used this analogy to describe his death and resurrection...

Jn 16:17~22...<sup>16</sup>*A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me, because I go to the Father.* <sup>17</sup>Then said *some* of his disciples among themselves, What is this that he saith unto us, *A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me: and, Because I go to the Father?* <sup>18</sup>They said therefore, What is this that he saith, *A little while?* we cannot tell what he saith. <sup>19</sup>Now Jesus knew that they were desirous to ask him, and said unto them, *Do ye inquire among yourselves of that I said, A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me?* <sup>20</sup>Verily, verily, I say unto you, That ye shall weep and lament, but the world shall rejoice: and ye shall be sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into joy.

<sup>21</sup>*A woman when she is in travail hath sorrow, because her hour is come: but as soon as she is delivered of child, she remembers no more the anguish, for joy that a man is born into the world.*

<sup>22</sup>*And ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man takes from you.*

**I asked Teri if this were true...and she assured me most certainly!**

Beloved, listen to me... If you are truly following Christ, if you are going the way of the Cross...you are suffering for his name! But I want to encourage you, as Paul was encouraging these Romans... *Think on the glory that awaits you, think of being "joint-heirs" with Jesus!*

The "Way of the Cross" is rough! It's hard, it is a way that is contrary to this world! We're walking against the grain! It's the way of suffering and sacrifice... Paul described it verses 12~13 here, by that of living "Crucified Lives!" Paul uses the word "groaning" like labor pains. But let me encourage you. It may be hard, and the way of sacrifice and suffering, ...IT IS THE WAY TO GLORY! **Remember that!**

Don't ever lose sight of that...there IS NO OTHER WAY to God than the "way of the Cross!" As Paul says here, the pain and suffering we encounter while we walk through this world... will one day GIVE WAY to Glory! And like holding that baby in your hands...so will it be on that day when we lay hold of the things of God, the things that God has promised to those who "Believe" that Christ is the way!

Here in this section, verses 18~25...Paul sums up what it means... "To live by Faith..."

Paul says in verse 24...<sup>24</sup>*For we are saved by **hope**:... We are saved by FAITH...*

The word Paul uses in this section...is HOPE. Hope is another word for faith, another word for trust. Faith, trust, hope...all three words are synonymous...

What he is saying is...*Those who are "just with God" are not those who live by the Law, but those who live by FAITH!*

The JUST shall LIVE by FAITH...Paul declares... that the "JUST", those who "are RIGHT with God"...the TRUE CHILDREN of God... *are those who live by FAITH...by HOPE!*

I don't believe there's a passage anywhere that is clearer concerning what it means to live by Faith!

Which is extremely important to know and do, for ONLY THOSE who “*Live by Faith*” will stand JUST before God, and escape the Wrath of God... The *Just* shall *LIVE* by *Faith*...

(Ro. 1) <sup>16</sup>For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. <sup>17</sup>For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, **The just shall live by faith.** <sup>18</sup>**For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;**

Listen closely... Paul makes it clear, its not enough to “KNOW” about Christ!

Beloved...I am deeply concerned...of a “*Mindset*” that has entered the “*Church*” today... A mindset that is simply **NOT TRUE**, a mindset based on “*misunderstanding*”, upon false teaching...A mindset that is very dangerous, one that is not scriptural...yet many “**BELIEVE IT...**”

(*Listen to me very closely*...I need you to HEAR what I am saying...You may not agree at first with what I am saying (due to previous teaching) but it still remains, is what does the scripture teach?)

It “*the mindset*” that SALVATION comes by walking down the isle, and getting baptized, and saying you believe that Jesus died for you...Many see it as almost an “*Event*”... They walk down the isle, get baptized, then there’s almost the spirit of...that’s it, I did it!

(*Illustration of billfold*) It’s almost the spirit of... “*I’ve got my ticket...*” You put that thing in your billfold, *for safe keeping*, and then continue on with your life! Now you try to live good a good life...not drinking, smoking, cursing...attend church whenever you can...and you’ll live in glory when you die!

But that’s not true... Paul says, “*The Just... shall live...by Faith...*” It speaks of a “*lifestyle*” that is characterized by “*faith...*”

It’s not enough to “**KNOW**” what the bible says about Christ... It’s not enough to “*So-called*” believe the story of Christ!

The Gospel is a CALL for ALL MEN to REPENT! Which means to turn... Turn from what? Drinking, drugs, cursing, etc? NO...those are but the apples off the apple tree. The problem is the sinful, rebellious nature that lives in me! Conforming to the Law, to Religion can do away with those things...

Religion gives you a list of do’s and don’ts, it tells you how to act and how not to act... And Christ... **He just hands you a Cross!** That’s how I know that Christ is man’s only hope! Because the problem is not “*wrong actions...*” The problem is my nature! It’s utterly sinful, there’s no fixing it! The only way to fix it...is to do away with it... So Christ just hands us a Cross, and says, THIS IS THE WAY to Glory... Die daily on this, and you will receive eternal life!

That is what it means... “The **JUST** shall **LIVE** by **FAITH...**”

Now here’s the scary part to me...what he says in 1:18...<sup>18</sup>**For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;**

What does he mean by...**those who hold the truth in unrighteousness;**

Listen... Those who “KNOW” what scriptures say about Jesus Christ... Those who KNOW the truth of what God expects and does not do it! Those who KNOW and confess with their lips, that Jesus Christ is God’s son, and that he died for man’s sin...

Those who “KNOW” all this...YET refuse to turn from their own WILLS!  
Yet refuse to Truly Surrender their LIVES to the Lord Jesus instead of themselves!

I want you to hear me... TO SUCH PEOPLE... **Will God’s wrath be poured out on!**

Listen... God has done everything he can to reach every man on earth! He has pleaded with men, he has graciously extended his arm to all men, regardless of their past transgression against HIM! HE has extended the arms of forgiveness, they are open to anyone who will come... God cannot do any more than what he has done to reach the lost... He has gone to the very limits, he can’t go any further... HE GAVE HIS SON! What more can He give?

Now listen... That helps you understand why God’s wrath will be poured out on men who rejected Jesus! And let me remind us here, to accept Jesus is to have “faith” in him... And according to Romans, that means to believe that the Cross is the way to God, to live “Crucified Lives”, surrendering our lives to Him, turning from our will to serve his will!

To simply KNOW that Christ is Lord is not enough! We must truly believe...and that belief is evidenced by our taking up the cross!

Knowledge of Christ helps no one...it actually holds a man accountable! There’s no excuse...

Verse 18 tells us... that ALL MANKIND who KNOW about Christ, **who hold the truth in unrighteousness**...will suffer the wrath of GOD...

I tell you what I believe that is... The ANGER of GOD!

God will be **MAD AS HELL!** At those who knew, but continued to live for self!

After all that God has done, after all he has suffered, after all he has given, after all he has had to endure by the hands of men, after all he has had to watch and suffer in his patience... After all that he has done, for a man to reject Christ...and continue to live for himself... God’s ANGER will erupt on that man!

Beloved... It came to my mind what HELL really is... It is where the MAN that rejects God’s Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, dwells...and I believe it is nothing less, than that man live forever in the presence of God’s ANGER! While those who follow Christ will live forever in the LOVE of God!

My “*FAITH*” rest in the PROMISE of God...

I can’t SEE it...I have no “*Physical Evidence*” that any of it’s true...

All I have...is the testimony of the scripture... And I BELIEVE it...

My HOPE is in Christ...**I BELIEVE THAT JESUS IS THE WAY TO GOD!**

And the WAY OF JESUS is the WAY OF THE CROSS...

I believe that the call of Christ is a call to “*give up*” our lives here on earth, to lay our lives down for Him, to live crucified lives...crucifying my “*self-will*”... **enabling me** to live my life unto HIM! (**For we can’t live two different lives**)

I can’t SEE IT with these eyes...I can’t PROVE it to you by a *tangible object*, I have no “*physical evidence*”... Everything I’m living for while here on earth...*I can’t SEE!*

*But, my HOPE in Christ is this*...that “*The Way of the Cross*”...leads to Glory!

Do you BELIEVE that Christ is the WAY? Are you living “Your LIFE” for Him...yielding your life here, to follow him?