

## THIS PRESENT PREDICAMENT

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Romans 8:18-30

1. A predicament is defined as a difficult, perplexing, or trying situation.
2. Have you given much thought to the predicament the human race faces?
3. Billions of people, who can't get along with each other, are trapped on this little, spinning planet that is hurtling through space at 67,000 miles an hour in its orbit around our sun.
4. Most people recognize, but refuse to deal with the fact, that however this universe came into being it must one day cease to exist.
5. From a strictly human point of view we are dying people, who are part of a dying race, inhabiting a dying planet, that is dependent upon a dying sun.
6. As Christians we understand that God created and sustains the universe, but that does not change the fact that all we now see will one day be destroyed. 2 Peter 3:7-13  
**But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.** 8 But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day. 9 The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance. **10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief**, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. 11 **Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness**, 12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat! 13 **But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.**
7. Only people will survive the demise of what we think of as reality.
8. As survivors we will spend eternity in one of two places-Heaven or Hell.
9. With these thoughts in mind let's examine the passage we are considering today.

### I. A divine prerogative. 18-25

- A. The word prerogative means an exclusive or special right, or privilege.
- B. As Creator, God has certain prerogatives, and one of those prerogatives is stated in verse 20. "For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it."  
NOTE: This situation exists because of man's sinful rebellion against God and His Christ.
- C. However all is not doom and gloom because God is preparing a people to be the benefactors of His love and grace. 18

- D. All who are the true followers of Jesus Christ, must live in the midst of the chaos, confusion, and conflict that characterizes the present scheme of things.
- E. One day the creation will be delivered from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. 21
- F. This will happen at the revealing of the sons of God. 19
- G. Until then we who are the sons and daughters of God are to live lives that are characterized by hope and perseverance. 24-25

## **II. A divine partnership. 26-27**

- A. God does not leave us to navigate this world on our own.
- B. All true followers of Jesus Christ are temples of the Holy Spirit.
- C. The Holy Spirit compensates for our weaknesses, not only in the area of prayer, but in all areas of our lives.
- D. However, it is through prayer that we access for ourselves and others all that is ours in Christ Jesus.
- E. When we pray the Holy Spirit helps us from within, while Jesus Christ intercedes for us at the right hand of God the Father.
- F. An essential aspect of prayer is praying in the Spirit, through the Son, to the Father within the context of God's will.

## **III. A divine predetermination. 28-30**

- A. We can live with confidence in this present world because of the things we know.
  - B. One of the things we know is that God causes all things to work together for good:
    - 1. To those who love God.
    - 2. To those who are called according to His purpose.
  - C. Because God foreknows He can also predestine or predetermine the outcome He desires.
- NOTE: God knows who will and who will not respond to the Gospel, and acts accordingly.
- D. Those who repent and embrace the Gospel will experience God's sanctifying work as He conforms them to the image of Jesus Christ.
  - E. All who belong to Jesus have responded to God's call, have been justified in God's sight, and will be finally glorified.

## **APPLICATION**

1. Every genuine follower of Jesus Christ has received an abundance of grace and the gift of imputed righteousness. Romans 5:17
2. We were crucified with Christ and have been born again from above and indwelt with the Holy Spirit.
3. Through Christ's death He atoned for our sins, and through His indwelling presence we can have victory over the law of sin that works in our bodies.
4. May we all be living examples of what God is able to accomplish in and through the lives of those who love Him and are called according to His purpose.