**Romans 8:12-18: The Resurrected Life and Eternity**

**Context: Romans 8:10 = The problem; How do we get a “dead” body alive? How does the “new man” within every believer express himself?**

**8:11 = The answer = By the Spirit of God. He gives life to our mortal bodies, not in the future, but now.**

**In our own strength, we are incapable of expressing our new life through our physical body because that physical body is dead.**

**We need a resurrection miracle! Anyone who lives a genuine Christian life is living a resurrection miracle!**

**The life/death motif in Romans 5-8. Romans 6:4 (life now), 11, 7:9-11, 13, 24; 8:6, 10-11**

**1. Romans 8:12-15 – Living as “sons”**

* **8:14 and 15 the experience he has been talking about is the experience of adult Sonship**
* **“Children” vs. “Sons”**
* **Compare this to Galatians 4:1–7, the law treated us as minor children, and now we have the status of adult children. The living out of that position comes by walking in the spirit.**
* **8:15 – “Spirit of adoption” - The Greek word here means “sonship adoption” for living as adult sons.**
* **8:16 - In addition, the Holy Spirit becomes our partner in our prayer life.**
* **There is no form of subjective communication to our spirit by the Holy Spirit regarding assurance and this verse**
* **Our assurance basically rests on believing the promises God has made to us. The Holy Spirit, joins us in our prayers and also affirms our Sonship**

**2. Romans 8:16-17 - Building a better future; the game of thrones**

* **Two forms of heirship are suggested here. There are certain things that all believers inherit by being children of God, immortality, a new nature, citizenship in the kingdom, the Holy Spirit and eternal life. Notice that the second form of airship is predicated on suffering.**
* **The ancient law of heirship and Judaism was that all of the children of a father inherited, but the firstborn son inherited a double portion.**
* **There is a special construction in the original language that can be rendered “on the one hand…on the other hand”. Two of those places are earlier in Romans (Rom. 5:16 and 7:25). This is a common use of these words for the Apostle Paul in Romans.**
* **This same construction is used in Romans 8:17 and could be translated “and if children, then heirs—heirs of God on the one hand and joint heirs with Christ on the other hand, if indeed we suffer with *Him,* that we may also be glorified together.” However, the language of the text itself as translated should make clear there are two possible heirships.**
* **Paul has already laid the groundwork for this in Romans 5:3-5. The attitude of God changes when we are justified; also, Romans 5:6-10**
* **Reigning in the Kingdom: Ps. 2, Heb. 1:4-14 Jesus gets it all**
* **Heb. 12:15-17 - Esau threw it away**

**Conditional vs. unconditional heirship**

* **Acts 20:32 God and His Word are able to build you up and give you an inheritance (Conditional); also Gal. 5:16-26 - need to walk in the spirit or won’t inherit; Col. 3:24 - clearly conditional, “the reward of the inheritance”**
* **Unconditional inheritance - Eph. 1:11, 14 unconditional; Rom. 8:17a unconditional; Col. 1:12; Acts 26:18**
* **Gal. 5:21 losing conditional; 1 Cor. 6:9; beatitudes Mt. 5:5**
* **Two conditions for reigning with Christ: 1) Perseverance to the end - 2 Tim. 2:12; Rev. 2:26-27 2) Character qualifications (inheriting is different than “living in” the Kingdom. We can live in a house, but not inherit it; ownership/ruling rights; co-heirship with Christ). 1 Cor. 6:9-11; Eph. 5:5; Gal. 5:19-21; Mt. 5:3, 5, 10; The Kingdom of God is like God’s “family business”, He can give it to whomever He wants; Ps. 2; Heb. 1:9**
* **Heb. 12 = God is getting us ready!**