

Sermon Title: The Holy Spirit Assures the Believer of Future Glory, Part 2 (Christians)

Sermon Text: Romans 8:23-25

Sermon Purpose: To call the hearer to recognize the sovereign work of the Holy Spirit in preserving and securing them.

Sermon Proposition: There are 3 reasons that Christians can have assurance about their future glorification.

- I. The true Christians certainty of hope is based on the **preserving** work of the Holy Spirit. V.23a
- II. The true Christians certainty of hope is based on the **provisional** work of Jesus Christ. V.23b
- III. The true Christians certainty of hope is based on the **personhood, power, and promises** of God. V.24-25

I. The true Christians certainty of hope is based on the **preserving work of the Holy Spirit. V.23a**

The subject in this section focuses on the Christians journey from grace to glory or justification to sanctification. V.22 references the idea of childbirth and its process. This **travailing** gives birth to a new creation (**2 Corinthians 5:17**). It is the adoption and redemption of Christians at the revealing of the sons of God, that is central to God's ultimate cosmic regeneration of all creation.

A. The sons of God have the **first fruits** of the Spirit.

Christians at this current time have only the first fruits – the pledge of more to come in our salvation. Just as the first pieces of fruit or produce to appear on a tree provide hope of a future harvest, the first fruits that the Spirit produces is now (**Galatians 5:22-23**) and this provides hope that we will one day be like Christ. It is because we are indwelt with the Spirit as the first instalment, down payment and pledge of our complete salvation that groan.

B. The sons of God groan with a yearning for **completion**.

The Christian yearns for the fulfillment of that salvation to be completed. "Already," through the indwelling presence of God's Spirit, we have been transferred into the new age of blessing and salvation; but the very fact that the Spirit is only the "first fruit" makes us sadly conscious that we have "not yet" severed all ties to the old age of sin and death.

[Douglas J. Moo, p. 520 NIC of NT The Epistle of Romans]

Christians groan because of the remaining sin in their members (Romans 6:13, 19; 7:24). We groan with grief over remains of sinfulness (7:24).

Psalm 38:4 For my iniquities have gone over my head; Like a heavy burden they are too heavy for me. **9** Lord, all my desire *is* before You; And my sighing is not hidden from You. **10** My heart pants, my strength fails me; As for the light of my eyes, it also has gone from me.

There is a healthy balance needed in the Christian life, in which our joy at the many blessings are already possessed, should be set alongside our frustration at our failures and our intense yearning for that day when we will fail God no more – when "we shall see Him and be like Him."

C. The sons of God groaning is **within**.

"Because every true Christian is indwelt by the Holy Spirit (**Romans 8:9**), and every genuine believer will to some degree manifest the fruit of the Spirit (**Galatians 5:22-23**) every time we see and experience God working His righteousness out in and through our lives, we yearn all the more to be freed of our remaining sin and spiritual weaknesses. Now, because of this divinely – bestowed sensitivity to sin, (we ourselves groan within ourselves) over the death, decay, and dreadful curse of sin that is still manifested in our remaining humanness."

[John MacArthur NT Commentary Romans 1-8; p. 459]

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2 Corinthians 5:4 For we who are in *this* tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life.

“As long as we are in the ‘tent’ of our human body, we will never fully escape sin’s corruption in our lives. That truth causes Christians to suffer times of deep inner distress over the debilitating sinfulness that still clings to them.” (Ibid. 459)

II. The true Christians certainty of hope is based on the provisional work of Jesus Christ. V.23b

A. The sons of God eager anticipation of adoption.

This is the process that began with God’s choice of the Christian

Ephesians 1:5 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,

And included our actually becoming His children at salvation

Galatians 4:5 to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. **6** And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" **7** Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ. ,

And will culminate with our glorification – the full realization of our inheritance in Christ Jesus. (**vv.29-30**)

B. The sons of God eager anticipation of redemption of the body.

This includes not just the physical body, but all of man’s remaining fallenness.

(**6:6, 12; 7:5; 1 Corinthians 15:33-44; Philippians 3:20-21; 2 Peter 1:3-4; 1 John 3:2**)

It is not until the body has been transformed that redemption can be said to be complete; in this life, our bodies share in that “frustration” which characterizes this world as a whole. [Puritan Pastor Thomas Watson, p.459]

(**1 Corinthians 1:6-8**)

2 Corinthians 1:21 Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us *is* God, **22** who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

2 Timothy 2:19 Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity."

1 Peter 1:3 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, **4** to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, **5** who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Because we are still capable of sinning, we should be continually on guard to resist, flee, abstain from, and overcome sin by the Spirit’s power (**vv.14-17**).

It is also encouragingly hopeful for Christians to realize that their falling into sin does not have its source in their deepest inner being, their new and holy nature is in and of Christ.

III. The true Christians certainty of hope is based on the personhood, power, and promises of God. V.24-25

Paul’s purpose in the last two verses of this section is to make clear that this need for expectant waiting is not casual. Our hope is not that we might not lose our salvation but that, by our Lord’s own promise, we cannot and will not lose our salvation.

Unlike the English word “hope” the New Testament word contains no uncertainty, this “hope” speaks of something that is certain, but not yet realized. The Christians ultimate destiny is to share in the very glory of God (**8:29-30; 2 Corinthians 3:18**)

John 17:22 "And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one:

1 John 3:1 Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. **2** Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

And that hope will be realized because Christ Himself secures it.

1 Timothy 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ, by the commandment of God our Savior and the Lord Jesus Christ, our hope,

Without the clear and certain promises of the Word of God, the Christian would have no basis for hope
(**Romans 15:4; Ephesians 2:12**)

Psalms 119:81 KAPH. My soul faints for Your salvation, But I hope in Your word.

Psalms 119:114 You *are* my hiding place and my shield; I hope in Your word.

Hebrews 6:17 Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed *it* by an oath, **18** that by two immutable things, in which it *is* impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before *us*. **19** This *hope* we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the *Presence* behind the veil,

Christians should be very concerned about sin in their lives, but not because they might sin themselves out of God's grace. Because of God's personhood, power, and promises that is impossible.
(**2 Peter 3:11-15**)

Christians can therefore wait with "passionate patience" and with strength and fortitude for the "hope" to manifest itself precisely because that for which the Christian hope is "unseen" and thereby part of the eternal and sure purpose of God.

The attitude and aptitude of a "passionate" patient endurance, that strengthens the Christian, is what is produced by the Holy Spirit and is required of Christians undergoing trials, troubles, tribulations, and temptations and as Christians await the completion of God's salvation for them of future glory. The word "perseverance" suggests "bearing up" under intense pressure. This is the attitude and aptitude of a true Christian.

Hebrews 11:13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced *them* and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.