



Romans 8:23-25

Saved by Hope

- *Rom 8:23 – ASV “And not only so, but ourselves also, who have the first-fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for [our] adoption, [to wit], the redemption of our body.”*
 - ‘*And not only so*’ implies something before, ‘*but ourselves also*’ – to what does this refer?
 - *the creation and believers*
 - We are described as having ‘*the first-fruits of the Spirit*’
 - What are the *first-fruits*?
 - The first portion of the dough, from which sacred loaves were to be prepared – *Lev 23:10,11, Num 28:26*
 - » Thus, used of persons consecrated to God for all time.
 - Persons superior in excellence to others of the same class
 - What does this mean here?
 - *James 1:18 – ‘Of His own will begot He us with the word of truth, that we*



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- *should be a kind of first-fruits of his creatures.*
 - » a pledge of a rich and full harvest – sacred and dedicated
- Remember, we are ‘sons’, ‘heirs’, ‘joint-heirs’ – Rom 8:14-17
- ‘we groan (present tense) within ourselves’
 - In v 22, we saw that the whole creation ‘groaned and travailed in pain together until now’
 - In the Greek, ‘groan’ can also be interpreted as ‘sigh’ – how would you describe ‘groan’ to someone?
 - In the English, implies strife and pain
 - Is that our condition now? Should it be?
 - But what are we groaning for here and now?
 - *The adoption*
 - » I thought we were already adopted sons?



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- Here, the *adoption* is the ‘*redemption of the body*’
 - » Redemption – deliverance
- *II Cor 5:2* ‘*For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven:*’
 - » This is not the deliverance of ourselves from our bodies, but the redemption of our bodies from the grave.
- ‘*redemption of the body*’ is part of the entire *adoption* deal
 - » *Rom 8:15* ‘*For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.*’
 - » *1 Pet 1:4* ‘*To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,*’
 - » This is consistent with our position – *Phil 3:20* ‘*For our **citizenship is in heaven**, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,*’



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- *Rom 8:24 – ILG ‘For by hope we were saved; but hope being seen is not hope; for what sees anyone, why also he hopes?’*
 - ‘we were saved’
 - Aorist passive indicative – versions differ here
 - ‘were’, ‘are’, ‘have been’
 - ‘*by hope*’
 - Describe **hope**
 - Expectation
 - » For the believer – the joyful and confident expectation of eternal salvation
 - According to this verse – if it is seen it is not hope
 - » ‘for what sees anyone, why also he hopes?’
 - What is our **hope** based on?



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- *Heb 11:1* ‘Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.’
 - **But is our faith blind or a ‘leap’?**
 - » Søren Kierkegaard – ‘Faith begins where one knows and has experienced the limitations of rational thought. Therefore, it is a leap into a paradox: I know by not knowing; I believe because I cannot know - but due to this unknowing, I have established a direct and unspeakable relationship with that which is beyond thinking, but which leads me in the relationship.’
 - *I Pet 1:18-21!*
- *Rom 8:25* – ILG “*but if what we do not see we hope (for), through patience we eagerly expect.*”
 - ‘*but if what we do not see...*’ continues to describe **hope**
 - ‘*patience*’
 - In context, ‘*we assiduously and patiently wait for*’ - απεκδεχομεθα - arekdechomai



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- Don't the terms *assiduously* (with diligence) and *patiently* seem conflicting?
- *Rom 8:19, 8:23, Phil 3:20, Heb 9:28*
- Compare that of the flesh with that of the Spirit
 - In the Spirit, do we have any choice?
- Describe your **hope**
 - Christ's return – *Tit 2:13-15, I John 3:2-3*
 - Deliverance unto a resurrected body – *Rom 8:23*
 - Spotless before Christ – *II Cor 5:21*
 - Rewards – *II Tim 4:8*
 - Deliverance from Satan, sin, death – *I Cor 15:54*
 - Companionship with the body of Christ – *Heb 12:22,23*
 - Eternity with God – *Heb 6:19,20*
- How can/does the hopeless soul respond?