

LESSON 17 8:18-30

The identity of the spiritual was clearly evident in verses 1-17. The context closed with a quick reminder of our blessed position in Christ as the family of God himself, according to the witness of the Holy Spirit, and with an assurance of heirship. But that comes with a measure of suffering, because as Christ suffered, so will His disciples.

THE WAIT OF CREATION AND GOD S PEOPLE

The wait of creation in general:

The term *creation* in this context refers to the world that God brought into existence, with a particular interest in the elements of nature apart from humanity. This creation was affected by the fall when God cursed the ground. Later it writhed as God destroyed mankind through the flood. So then, it too awaits the completion of salvation.

- * The hope of all creation comes with the revealing of God's children. – 19
- * The captivity of creation because of the fall brings a desire for restored freedom. - 20-21
- * The whole of God's creation groaned till now. – 22 (Now Christ has come.)

The wait of God's people:

Believers begin their journey with God through the simple element of faith. Interestingly, we maintain an element of faith through this life with the assurance that we will see our salvation completed at the resurrection.

- * The believers suffering is temporary, but we prepare for our eternal glory. – 18
- * The believers groan as we wait for the completion of our salvation – 23
- * The patience of the believer is evidenced in that we hope for what we do not see. – 24-25

THE UNIQUE BLESSINGS OF GOD S PEOPLE

- * We receive help from the Holy Spirit who is known by the Father. – 26-27
- * We know that all things do and accomplish good for those God calls. – 28
- * We are children who were:

Known before creation (emphasizes God's awareness of personality, character, or attributes, not volition, activity, nor spiritual capacity) → Predestined (ordained to salvation before creation) → Called (beckoned to salvation) → Justified (deemed innocent on the basis of Christ's applied blood) → Glorified (invested with dignity, honor, and exaltation).