

## Parson to Person

### ROMANS 8 PART 6

*“For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.” The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs— heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. <sup>24</sup> For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance. Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God” (Romans 8:15–27 NKJV).*

Herein, as stated by Paul, the glory “*which shall be revealed in us*” involves “*the revealing of the sons of God.*” This is a reference to the called, redeemed, justified, adopted, sanctified, glorified children of God—who will have come through the full sanctification process Paul has been teaching/explaining. This event will begin on the day the Lord resurrects (raptures) all believers from the Church Age—and not a day before. Thus, the “*revealing of the sons of God*” is a glorious day in which the Lord will provide a glorified body to the Church Age believers—and their revelation will be of the individual saints together making up the corporate whole. I will look at you, and you will look at me. We will all see each other in a glorified state for the very first time—together.

Of interest to me (and maybe to you) is the modern doctrines of Amillennialism and Postmillennialism along with the equally false teaching of “The Manifest Sons of God.”

Amillennialists and Postmillennialists teach that Jesus will return to the earth at the end of this era followed by the Great White Throne Judgment. Thus their end time eschatology bypasses the Rapture, the 7-year Tribulation, and the (literal 1000 year) Millennial Reign of Christ. They see Christ’s physical return correctly as the Second Coming, but the placement in a biblical timeline is all wrong. In addition, the positions hold that the Millennium is not a literal 1000 years but seen as an era unspecified.

Amillennial and Postmillennial Theology began early in the Church Age (late-mid second century) for several reasons and was further popularized by Origen (Origenes Adamantius) who taught that bible prophecy should be allegorized versus taken literally. More recently within the Postmillennial camp emerged the “Manifest Sons of God” doctrine. Those who embrace this school of thought suggest that through the work of the “sons” the world will slowly Christianize (by way of their apostolic/authoritative ministries), and thus Christ will return to a fundamentally transformed world. Thus, “The Manifest Sons of God” will be the ones who help hasten the Second Coming of Christ by their miraculous and authoritative acts. Sadly, and in addition, some within the “Manifest Sons of God” camp even believe that the “sons” are deified as illustrated by the expression “Dogs have puppies, cats have kittens, God has gods.” Moreover, Post-millennial and Amillennial thought has influenced the majority of Christendom and affects much churching today.

I believe it is important to know the true and biblical timeline in order to give hope to those asking for the truth, plan appropriately for the future, make good decisions regarding polity and policy, and know where we are in the timeline. Moreover, and most importantly, without a good timeline model and understanding much of the present and future, biblical interpretation will be confusing at the least, discredit the Lord, and promote/provide false narratives leading to a false gospel. We must know the truth!

I love you all,

Pastor Paul

(P.S. Please review our dispensational model and last week’s bulletin for details.)