

Fellowship Bible Church
March 8, 2009
Eric Bryan

OUR GOOD . . . HIS GLORY!

Reflections on Romans 8:18-39 and other selected passages

Storms

Growing up in Oklahoma in the 60's and 70's, I remember going through regular drills at school and at home to practice what to do in the event of a tornado or serious storm. The key to success when the storms *did* come was whether proper preparations had been made in advance – Was a safe place of shelter already prepared? Had procedures been put in place to protect life and limb? Were adequate provisions put aside to weather the storm? etc.

I moved away from Oklahoma in the late 70's and subsequently forgot about those days of unpredictable, turbulent storms. I no longer practiced what to do when storms came, and settled into a seemingly more calm and predictable environment for the next several decades. When we moved to Tulsa in 2006, I was quickly reacquainted with that good ol' Oklahoma weather. As we recently remodeled our house, one of our requirements was to retain a space reserved specifically for those inevitable times when the severe storms would come.

So...what's the weather like in your life right now? Is it clear skies and sunny...partly cloudy with a chance of rain...or dark and devastating in the eye of a killer storm? Scripture reminds us that the storms of life are not a matter of *if*, but *when* (Matthew 7:24-27). What, then, are we doing *today* to be prepared for the storms that are coming *tomorrow*?

Life Application Questions

1. Do you believe that "life storms" will come? If not, are you either (a) avoiding that actual reality and/or (b) creating a "false reality?" Consider whether either of those two positions coheres with Scripture (e.g., Matthew 7:24-27; 1 Peter 1:6-9; 2:21-25; 4:12-19).
2. What does the paradigm look like through which you are processing the events of life? Compare/contrast your paradigm with God's paradigm as referenced in Scripture in light of the following questions:
 - On what foundational definitions/parameters are you basing your life (e.g., what is your definition of *good* in life)? (see Romans 8:28-30)
 - How closely do your personal plans/aspirations/dreams for your life align with

OUR GOOD...HIS GLORY!
 Reflections on Romans 8:18-39 and other selected passages
 March 8, 2009

How Do We Process the “All Things” of Life?

	My Paradigm	God's Paradigm
Definitions		
Plans		
Resources		

Prayer

Father, Your paradigm is all that matters in life. From eternity past to eternity future, Your glory first and then my good has always been at stake and in process of being fulfilled. In light of that truth, I joyfully proclaim the following:

- Holy Spirit, thank You that You help me and intercede for me with groanings too deep for words when I am weak and do not know how to pray as I should, and that Your prayers are always according to the will of the Father;
- Father, thank You that You cause all things to work together for my good, and that such an outcome is an integral part of Your saving work in my life from start to finish;
- Jesus, thank You that You willingly gave Your life for me, and that because You have been raised to the right hand of the Father where You are also interceding for me I can have the confidence that the Father will also with You freely give me all things;

OUR GOOD...HIS GLORY!
Reflections on Romans 8:18-39 and other selected passages
March 8, 2009

- Father, thank You that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate me from Your love, which is in Christ Jesus my Lord.

I. Introduction

- Introduce self, explain next three weeks (if necessary)
- Thank you for prayers and cards/e-mails/FB posts
- Update on condition [*neurologists office celebrity, brain tests, facial cues*]
- Prayer

II. Sermon Disclaimers

- Personal reflection v. Exposition
- Minor League Player (Lantz, Sampson, Clarke, Orissa, etc.)
- Sermon almost didn't happen...love/hate relationship (joy/pain, enthusiasm/mortification)...repeated examples...PREACH I MUST!

III. My Paradigm

- Psalm 119:71 (Affliction...1 Peter, Paul's life...applies to all today, including those who have yet to have trusted in Jesus Christ as their Savior)
- My story these past two weeks...Big 3 (aneurism, stroke, tumor)...fill in my paradigm
 - Definition of *good* = personal prosperity, all troubles resolved to my satisfaction and benefit
 - Plans = ability to communicate verbally
 - Resources = "Get 'er done" (i.e., on my own)
- Each of us has his/her own customized set of answers. What does your paradigm look like?

IV. The Corrective Grid – Romans 8:18-39

- Difference between *cause* and *allow* (don't believe that God causes evil; however, we live in a fallen world with decay and decline, and clearly God allows things to happen and is sovereign over all)
- In my case, believe it has at least to some extent involved the LORD's gentle, loving discipline (Heb 12:6a – "For those whom the LORD loves He disciplines...." 7a – "It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons...." 10b – "...He disciplines us for our good, so that we may share His holiness.")
- Flow of Romans 4-8
 - 4 = Justification by Faith
 - 5 = Results/Benefits of Justification
 - 6 = Dead to sin, slaves to righteousness
 - 7 = Freedom from the Law (notwithstanding the old sin nature of the flesh)
 - 8 = Alive, Sanctified, Glorified (strong emphasis on the ministry of Holy Spirit)
 - Ministries of Holy Spirit: Imparts life (vv2,11), bestows freedom (v2), supplies directive and sanctifying power (vv14-15), assures us of our salvation and family status (v16), pledge/down payment of final glory (v23), helps in weakness (v26), intercedes on our behalf (vv26-27)
- Going to Mount Glory by way of the Valley of Sufferings (vv17-39)
 - 17 = Highest peak in salvation range (children, heirs of God/fellow heirs with Christ)
 - 18-27 = Inevitability of suffering/longing for ultimate redemption/glorification
 - 28-30 = God's perspective on our earthly circumstances
 - 28 key terms = God, all things, good, those who love God/...who are called....
 - 29 key terms = foreknew, predestined, conformed to the Image of His Son

OUR GOOD...HIS GLORY!
Reflections on Romans 8:18-39 and other selected passages
March 8, 2009

- 30 key terms = predestined, called, justified, glorified (not one is lost) [FF Bruce quote]
- 31-39 = Paeans of praise; focused on our eternal security

V. God's Paradigm

- His definition of *good* = conformity to the image of Jesus Christ (Rom 8:29)
- His plans = Ways and thoughts higher than ours, but always advancing (Is 55:6-9)
- His resources = He alone is our never failing help, shield, lovingkindness, hope (Ps 33:13-22); He gives grace and strength (2 Cor 12:5b-10)

VI. Closing

- Extreme difficulty living, even believing, this truth in South Tulsa; We need to come into true reality
- Dr. Hoehner's funeral – Hymn *Day By Day*
- May we allow the Corrective Grid of God's Word move us out of our paradigms and into God's paradigm...FOR OUR GOOD AND HIS GLORY!

F.F. Bruce Quote

"Why does Paul move directly here from justification to glory, without saying anything about the Christian's present experience of sanctification by the power of the Spirit? Partly, no doubt, because the coming glory has been in the forefront of his mind; but even more because the difference between sanctification and glory is one of degree only, not one of kind. Sanctification is progressive conformity to the mind or image of Christ here and now (cf 2 Cor 3:18; Col 3:10); glory is perfect conformity to the image of Christ there and then. Sanctification is glory begun; glory is sanctification consummated. Paul looks forward to the consummation of the work of grace – a consummation guaranteed by its inception: 'He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ' (Php 1:6)."

Lyrics to the hymn *Day By Day*

Day by day, and with each passing moment, strength I find to meet my trial here;
Trusting in my Father's wise bestowment, I've no cause for worry or for fear.
He, whose heart is kind beyond all measure, gives unto each day what He deems best,
Lovingly its part of pain and pleasure, mingling toil with peace and rest.

Every day the Lord Himself is near me, with a special mercy for each hour;
All my cares He fain would bear and cheer me, He whose name is Counselor and
Pow'r.

The protection of His child and treasure is a charge that on Himself He laid;
"As thy days, thy strength shall be in measure," this the pledge to me He made.

Help me then, in every tribulation, so to trust Thy promises, O Lord,
That I lose not faith's sweet consolation, offered me within Thy holy Word.
Help me, Lord, when toil and trouble meeting, e'er to take, as from a father's hand,

OUR GOOD...HIS GLORY!
Reflections on Romans 8:18-39 and other selected passages
March 8, 2009

One by one, the days, the moments fleeting, till with Christ the Lord I stand.