

Romans # 114

“Reaction or Response to Suffering”

Romans 8:17; Genesis 3:1-13

Romans 10:12 ‘For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on Him’

Romans 8:17 Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in His sufferings...

Now if we are children, then we are heirs- heirs of God, and (then) co-heirs with Christ if indeed we share in His sufferings...

The choices we make determine the life we live.

As believers in Christ, we have the choice to respond positively to the plan of God or react negatively to it.

Reaction to life is a sign of failure and a way to be weak without really trying.

Reaction removes normal restraints on our areas of weakness.

The first thing we do when we remove self-restraint is justify our reactionary sins involved; such as the mental attitude sins of loss of temper, self-centered arrogance or many of our bad habits.

We divorce ourselves from reality when we fail to take responsibility for our own decisions when our self-restraint is removed.

We move into a state of self-justification, doing things that are sinful and irritating to others, then we become indifferent to their feelings; hypersensitive to ourselves and insensitive to them.

Weak people place unrealistic expectations on others.

In preoccupation with self, all restraint is removed and we do things we really wanted to do but were restrained from before by our reliance on God the Holy Spirit.

So in reality, we wanted to continue things which were sinful bad habits but our free-will choice wouldn’t permit it until we reacted to someone else.

If we continue to react to people with or without justification, we will eventually destroy our own spiritual life by permanently leaning on our areas of weakness, developing the sin nature within, rather than integrity and virtue.

This self-justification removal of restraint results in permanent self-induced misery unless otherwise interrupted by God’s recovery technique.

All our priorities regarding what makes us happy, what entertains us or what we enjoy will change and we will become self-centered losers.

Then, we’re walking time-bombs, demanding to be entertained and recognized wherever we go; on the downward spiral of disciplinary suffering.

Self-discipline sets aside the superficialities of life and concentrates on the essentials of life.

To be the heir of the God of the universe requires commensurate blessings available as a part of God's plan.

The only thing missing is that the justice of God can't impute these blessings until there is capacity.

All blessings from the justice of God must be a real imputation from divine justice to divine righteousness.

Capacity for blessing only comes to those who have biblical truth in their soul and human spirit.

And blessing in eternity from God is a series of *a fortioris* beginning with the imputation of God's righteousness at salvation.

Capacity for blessing from maturity means capacity for suffering from that same maturity.

Having capacity for life, the mature believer has the ability to meet any suffering, disaster or any situation in life and handle it magnificently as Jesus Christ would have it handled.

Capacity for blessing from spiritual maturity means capacity for undeserved suffering in maturity.

It's telling us what we can expect once we reach maturity and how to handle it as mature believers.

Maturity adjustment to God through maximum biblical truth in the soul results in the imputation of divine blessing to its target, the righteousness of God in us and along with the imputation of blessing, comes the imputation of undeserved suffering, just as much from the justice of God as the things we generally consider great blessings.

All our undeserved suffering is God's down payment on our future blessings.

Just as the blessings from the justice of God are the basis for blessing beyond ultimate sanctification in eternity, suffering from the justice of God to the mature believer is the basis for reward beyond ultimate sanctification in eternity.

Occupation with Jesus Christ during blessing means capacity for that blessing and occupation with Jesus Christ during undeserved suffering means capacity for that suffering.

Undeserved suffering in maturity means glorification in eternity and the fact that Jesus Christ is glorified means that the way is now open for any member of the royal family to share in His glory!

All suffering in maturity is undeserved and designed to glorify God and at the same time, demonstrate that capacity for life and happiness also means capacity for suffering.

When we realize that time is just a drop in the bucket compared to eternity, suffering becomes

a demonstration of the wisdom of God, the dynamics of His grace and the perfection of

His justice.

Every time that the mature believer has undeserved suffering, it's God's guarantee and reminder of the great blessings and rewards he's going to have for all eternity!