

the Spirit^a is life because of righteousness.¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ^b from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through^c his Spirit that dwells in you.

¹² So then, brothers and sisters,^d we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—¹³ for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.¹⁵ For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba!^e Father!”¹⁶ it is that very Spirit bearing witness^f with our spirit that we are children of God,¹⁷ and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

¹⁸ I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us.¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God;²⁰ for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now;²³ and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have

the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.²⁴ For in^g hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes^h for what is seen?²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedesⁱ with sighs too deep for words.²⁷ And God,^j who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit^k intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.^l

²⁸ We know that all things work together for good^m for those who love God, who are

^a Or *spirit*

^b Other ancient authorities read *the Christ* or *Christ Jesus* or *Jesus Christ*

^c Other ancient authorities read *on account of*

^d Gk *brothers*

^e Aramaic for *Father*

^f Or ¹⁵ *a spirit of adoption, by which we cry, “Abba! Father!”* ¹⁶ *The Spirit itself bears witness*

^g Or *by*

^h Other ancient authorities read *awaits*

ⁱ Other ancient authorities add *for us*

^j Gk *the one*

^k Gk *he* or *it*

^l Gk *according to God*

^m Other ancient authorities read *God makes all things work together for good, or in all things God works for good*

9–10: Paul shifts from speaking of being “in Christ” (v. 1) or *in the Spirit* to having the Spirit or Christ dwell within oneself (6.22; 7.4). 11: *He who raised Christ*, 4.17,24; 11.15. 13: *Deeds of the body*, here Paul uses “body” interchangeably with *flesh*. See 6.6–8. 15–17: *Adoption* by the Spirit: Those who live according to the Spirit (or by “faith,” i.e., faithfulness, 4.12,16) are the *heirs* of the promises given to Abraham, even if not his descendants according to the flesh (4.1,11–14; Gal 4.5–7). 15: *Abba*, an Aramaic word which Jesus may have used in his own prayer (Mk 14.36), was retained in prayer by early Christians (Gal 4.6). 17: *If . . . we suffer*, the tension between suffering and hope in the glory to come (5.3–5) is characteristic of life during “this present time” (v. 18; 12.12; 1 Cor 4.8–13).

8.18–39: *Suffering, and hope in God’s promise*. God’s purposes toward his children are much greater than the circumstances of *this present time* would indicate. This theme is crucial in chs 9–11. 19–22: Paul shares an apocalyptic viewpoint that the present age is evil (see Gal 1.4), having been *subjected* by God to malevolent spiritual forces (v. 20; 1 Cor 15.20–28; Phil 3.21). 21: Creation itself will participate in the liberation of the *children of God*. 22: *Groaning in labor pains*, a frequent apocalyptic metaphor (2 Esd 4.42; 10.5–14; Mt 24.8; Mk 13.8). 23: The inner testimony of the Spirit (vv. 16,26–27) is experienced as intense yearning and hope (5.1–5). *Adoption*, lit., “sonship,” see 9.4n. 26–27: If we “groan inwardly” (v. 23), it is because of the Spirit at work in our prayers, interceding *for the saints*. This dramatic language is resumed in 9.1–3. 28–30: The alternative translations in the footnote represent the reading in the earliest manuscript. Paul means, not that all circumstances of this life are good for us (the lament in 8.36 is genuine), but that amid *all* these *things* God’s purpose prevails. *Those . . . who are called*, preeminently Israel (9.4; 11.2); also all those who are “the children of the promise,” including Gentiles