"The Foundations of Our Faith Revealed, Theme by Theme in Genesis —
The Genesis Themes and Their Consequences for Pauline Doctrine,
Part 5"

<u>Our Outline Today: The Suffering and The Testimony, Verses that made a</u> difference for me.

Next Time: The Mark of Testimony

Review:

- The Federal Headship Doctrine An Introduction
 - In our last two fellowships here around God's word, we examined some of my favorite verses in the Bible from Romans chapter 5.
 And, as I have said several time, thanks be to God for changing my life forever through these verses:

Rom 5:12-17, 20-21

- 12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:
- 13 (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law.
- 14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.
- 15 But not as the offence, so also *is* the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, *which is* by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many.
- 16 And not as *it was* by one that sinned, *so is* the gift: for the judgment *was* by one to condemnation, but the free gift *is* of many offences unto iustification.
- 17 For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)

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- 20 Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:
- 21 That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.

Here is the core teaching of what has been called "Federal Headship". It is so essential to believe this and understand it as Paul writes of it here. After all, he boldly states in verse 17 that we may reign in life if we receive the abundance of grace secured for us through Christ's having cancelled the Adamic headship for us and established his headship. One led to the abundance of death with its reign, while the other makes possible the abundance of life through grace with its reign. Which would you rather have? But, as writes in many verses in chapters 4-7 in the Romans and in Galatians 2 & 3, legal works cancel the outworking of grace.

Law brings wrath while grace brings righteousness and life through Jesus Christ. Though believers may put themselves under a law, they do so to their own loss since their works are then legal works rather than the fruit of the spirit. Those works will burned at the Judgment Seat of Christ. No reward can be given for them for they always fail to meet the perfect standard.

- This is imputed righteousness, Christ's own righteousness in taking our sins upon himself, paying their full penalty, and then making his righteous act in this regard our own. Amen and amen. This is the outworking of Federal Headship. See our teaching here on <u>libertymessenger.org</u> for more teaching on this subject.
- So the great issue for mankind, dead in trespasses and sins, revolves around the one central focus, righteousness. Do we see ourselves as defined before God almighty through our own personal acts of righteousness, or rather through the lens of God's imputed righteousness, Christ's completed work of righteousness freely given to us by his grace.

Another way of working this would be this: Do we see ourselves as God sees us, in Christ, or as we see ourselves apart from that finished work, still in Adam.

 We went on last time to look especially into this great chapter in the Romans, certainly one of the greatest theological sections in the Bible and Paul's letters — and perhaps the greatest of all. Our goal was not to explain that teaching, but rather to underscore our fundamental topic that the teaching of Paul on Federal Headship is founded on taking Genesis literally!

Federal Headship Doctrine is Founded on the Genesis Account — Romans 5

- The Federal Headship Doctrine, From the Top
- Our Hope Depends on Justification Which Is Gained through Faith
- Our Justification Depends On Christ's Shed Blood
- Through His Blood Sacrifice Our Reconciliation Was Accomplished
- Adam's Legacy is Undeniable by All, for Sin and Death Do Reign
- Christ's Legacy Is Offered to All that Grace Might Reign
- Grace Through Christ's Righteousness Reigns Even More than Adam's Sin
- Paul's Central Doctrinal Point By Grace Through Faith, Our Personal Resurrection Is Assured

Federal Headship Doctrine is Founded on the Genesis Account:

• Our Hope Depends on Justification Which Is Gained through Faith

Rom. 5:1-2

- 1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:
- 2 By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.
- Those who have no faith, who do not take God at his word, are not therefore justified and have no real hope in the world or for eternity.

But this introductory section is about our lives and how God is working out his love for us in the NOW TIME, right now, as it were. How can that relate to the Genesis account, we may well ask. Paul will now explain himself by getting to the fundamentals of our faith, and, he will necessarily go back to Genesis as we shall see in the verses following.

Federal Headship Doctrine is Founded on the Genesis Account:

• Our Justification Depends On Christ's Shed Blood:

Rom. 5:6-9

- 6 For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.
- 7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die.
- 8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.
- 9 <u>Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be</u> saved from wrath through him.

So Adam's one act of rebellion and sin came upon all that followed —
and Christ's one act of righteousness similarly brought to us who
have believed his act of righteousness imputed to our account
cancelling Adam's sin. It was his willing act of obedience to offer
himself as our all sufficient sacrifice shedding his own blood to
secure our eternal redemption.

Paul goes back to Genesis and to Adam here in his teaching because the Federal Headship Doctrine is seen reflected even there in that first book of the Bible.

Federal Headship Doctrine is Founded on the Genesis Account:

• Adam's Legacy is Undeniable by All, for Sin and Death Do Reign

Rom. 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

- So it was not personal sin that brought death ("the wages of sin are death") since personal sin was not being counted by God before the Law, but rather Adam's sin that had been imputed to all Adam's descendants. Therefore, he writes, "all have sinned (in Adam)".
- This is Federal Headship indeed and it is established by all dying, he writes. So the Genesis account it true and critically important to Paul's teaching, and, he implies, it should be the same for us. One man, Adam brought sin and death to all. Similarly, Christ, as Federal Head, even "the last Adam", brings in righteousness and with it life eternal for all under grace who have believed. Amen.
- A nice table that well communicates this is found in Thomas Constable's (and Newell, etc.), "Notes on Romans".

Federal Headship Doctrine is Founded on the Genesis Account:

• Christ's Legacy Is Offered to All that Grace Might Reign

Rom. 5:17-21

17 For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)

- 18 Therefore as by the offence of one *judgment came* upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one *the free gift came* upon all men unto justification of life.
- 19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.
- 20 Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:
- 21 That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.
- Our purpose here is not to further explain this teaching, but to see that apart from Adam and the God-revealed history scripture presents, there is great difficulty grasping the essence of our redemption, whether that be regarding our forgiveness, our justification, our reconciliation or our life. It all goes back to Adam.
- So grace Through Christ's Righteousness Reigns Even More than Adam's Sin! This teaching here changed my life. Yours?
- Here there is the word "more", grace did "much more" abound. Verses 9, and 17 says much more, and verse 20 says the same. Yes, sin abounded and who can in their right mind deny it. But much more, grace did super-abound!! And we who receive that abundant grace offered freely, may abound in this life "reigning" over sin and death that still reigns around and in us.
- There is no stronger statement of the purpose of the law given anywhere in scripture than here in verse 20. But so many are blinded to this truth that is so essential to understanding the abundance of grace revealed through Paul. So many ignore this letter and indeed all of Paul's letters to their own peril.
- Then, as we saw, there is even more taught here in this passage, for even our resurrection is assured based on the Genesis account:

1 Cor. 15:49 And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.

 This gets to the heart of the matter and so much is included here in just a few carefully chosen words of the Spirit of God.

Our Outline Today: The Suffering and The Testimony

Rom. 15:1-4

- 1 We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves.
- 2 Let every one of us please his neighbour for his good to edification.
- 3 For even Christ pleased not himself; but, as it is written, The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me.
- 4 For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.
 - Our themes All the Pauline major themes we have referenced are reflected so much in the Genesis with that crimson thread throughout. That is true of our teaching today on the suffering of the believer and what a blessed teaching it is. What great hope we have through the scriptures. Amen.

Introduction:

• We have said much here about suffering as it is revealed in the book of Genesis. We continue with that today. But as our central focus I would like us to especially consider what it must have been like for these saints of the living God to live the life that God called them to live. As Hebrews chapter 11 puts it, "By faith ...". So our central outline would need to be as recorded there if we were to be complete with what stands written in scripture. But we will limit ourselves here today to just a few, Abraham, Jacob, and Joseph. What were their walk in faith like as revealed here in God's word, designed to give us, we should remember, hope?

[READ | Heb. 11:17-22

- 17 By <u>faith Abraham, when he was tried</u>, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten *son*,
- 18 Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called:
- 19 Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.
- 20 By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come.
- 21 By faith Jacob, when he was a dying, blessed both the sons of Joseph; and worshipped, *leaning* upon the top of his staff.
- 22 By faith Joseph, when he died, made mention of the departing of the children of Israel; and gave commandment concerning his bones.

• That summarizes it all, doesn't it? But if we could get inside each of these patriarchs and could see their lives as they saw them, what would that be like? Today that is what I want us to do.

Our Outline Today: The Suffering and the Testimony, in Abraham, in Jacob, in Joseph, and in Paul

- I. The Suffering and the Testimony in Abraham:
 - We begin with Isaac's offering up, today with the promises of a son. But many years passed with no conformation of the promise that had been given. And then the son was given in the Lord's good timing. THEN, the trials and the suffering began in earnest with Ishmael with finally a commandment to offer up what was most dear to him, his son Isaac, the son of the promise.

Gen. 22:1-5

- 1 And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, *here* I *am*.
- 2 And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.
- 3 And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him.
- 4 Then on the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes, and saw the place afar off.
- 5 And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass; and I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you.

Gen. 22:7-14

- 7 And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here *am* I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where *i*s the lamb for a burnt offering?
- 8 And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.
- 9 And they came to the place which God had told him of; and Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood.
- 10 And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son.
- 11 And the angel of the LORD called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here *am* I.

12 And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me.

13 And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind *him* a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son.

14 And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovahjireh: as it is said to this day, In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen.

This was a great trial imposed upon him by the Lord God, and this was no ordinary trial of soul and spirit like you or I regularly have known in this life. For the Lord God himself on multiple occasions had promised to Abraham a son and that through that son the future of so many, not only of Abraham and Sarah but also of many generations in his family and even in humanity as a whole, would be blessed, or, alternatively, cursed.

Now Abraham has been commanded to offer up as a burnt offering that very son, the son of the promise, as an act of worship of that miracle working God. This would be the greatest challenge one could ever endure, would it not?

II. The Suffering and the Testimony — in Jacob:

 For Jacob, it was much the same. The sufferings that came to him were often overwhelming indeed:

Gen. 32:1-12

- 1 And Jacob went on his way, and the angels of God met him.
- 2 And when Jacob saw them, he said, This *is* God's host: and he called the name of that place Mahanaim.
- 3 And Jacob sent messengers before him to Esau his brother unto the land of Seir, the country of Edom.
- 4 And he commanded them, saying, Thus shall ye speak unto my lord Esau; Thy servant Jacob saith thus, I have sojourned with Laban, and stayed there until now:
- 5 And I have oxen, and asses, flocks, and menservants, and womenservants: and I have sent to tell my lord, that I may find grace in thy sight.
- 6 And the messengers returned to Jacob, saying, We came to thy brother Esau, and also he cometh to meet thee, and four hundred men with him.

- 7 Then Jacob was greatly afraid and distressed: and he divided the people that was with him, and the flocks, and herds, and the camels, into two bands;
- 8 And said, If Esau come to the one company, and smite it, then the other company which is left shall escape.
- 9 And Jacob said, O God of my father Abraham, and God of my father Isaac, the LORD which saidst unto me, Return unto thy country, and to thy kindred, and I will deal well with thee:
- 10 I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies, and of all the truth, which thou hast shewed unto thy servant; for with my staff I passed over this Jordan; and now I am become two bands.
- 11 Deliver me, I pray thee, from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau: for I fear him, lest he will come and smite me, *and* the mother with the children.
- 12 And thou saidst, I will surely do thee good, and make thy seed as the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude.

[READ] Gen. 32:22-32

- 22 And he rose up that night, and took his two wives, and his two womenservants, and his eleven sons, and passed over the ford Jabbok.
 23 And he took them, and sent them over the brook, and sent over that he had.
- 24 And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day.
- 25 And when he saw that he prevailed not against him, he touched the hollow of his thigh; and the hollow of Jacob's thigh was out of joint, as he wrestled with him.
- 26 And he said, Let me go, for the day breaketh. And he said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me.
- 27 And he said unto him, What is thy name? And he said, Jacob.
- 28 And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed.
- 29 And Jacob asked *him*, and said, Tell *me*, I pray thee, thy name. And he said, Wherefore *is* it *that* thou dost ask after my name? And he blessed him there.
- 30 And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: for I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved.
- 31 And as he passed over Penuel the sun rose upon him, and he halted upon his thigh.
- 32 Therefore the children of Israel eat not of the sinew which shrank, which is upon the hollow of the thigh, unto this day: because he touched the hollow of Jacob's thigh in the sinew that shrank.

 We could go on to consider Joseph or other examples of suffering of believers found in Genesis, but let's limit this part of our study today to Joseph:

III. The Suffering and the Testimony — in Joseph:

Gen. 50:14-18

14 And Joseph returned into Egypt, he, and his brethren, and all that went up with him to bury his father, after he had buried his father.

15 And when Joseph's brethren saw that their father was dead, they said, Joseph will peradventure hate us, and will certainly requite us all the evil which we did unto him.

16 And they sent a messenger unto Joseph, saying, Thy father did command before he died, saying,

17 So shall ye say unto Joseph, Forgive, I pray thee now, the trespass of thy brethren, and their sin; for they did unto thee evil: and now, we pray thee, forgive the trespass of the servants of the God of thy father. And Joseph wept when they spake unto him.

18 And his brethren also went and fell down before his face; and they said, Behold, we be thy servants.

[READ] Gen. 50:19-21

19 And Joseph said unto them, Fear not: for *am* I in the place of God? 20 But as for you, ye thought evil against me; *but* God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as *it is* this day, to save much people alive.

21 Now therefore fear ye not: I will nourish you, and your little ones. And he comforted them, and spake kindly unto them.

- All of Joseph's life after having been sold into Egypt was a great trial imposed by the Lord God ...
- This brings us directly to our beloved apostle Paul and his revelation to us Gentiles today where we similarly learn of the suffering of believers under the plan of God, but in this case, under grace:

IV. The Suffering and the Testimony — in Paul:

• What can be said about this? Is it as so many are saying that God is still judging us and our sin even though we are living under grace? No, for that is not the reason for the suffering at all according to Philippians 1, Ephesians, and Colossians 1 where we read that there is a different and greater purpose for the suffering of the saints today under grace. That is to share with him in his ongoing suffering. We

are the body but he is the head. And, he dwells within each of us! So his sufferings are ours and ours are his. The magnitude and Amen. So blessed indeed is this teaching and the great work of grace in us that makes it a reality. That is our main focus today.

- [Important Note: In 1 Cor. 11 Transition Period there was still judgment, even though the Grace Dispensation was underway. That was because the Jews were being made jealous by God's blessing on the church independently of Israel's obedience and certain miraculous gifts of the spirit were still being given in Corinth at this time. Additionally, the signs of an apostle were present. None of these conditions continue today.]
- Now I want to lead you into some of those scriptures that the Lord used in my own life long ago. These have become so important for me and I hope they are for you as well.

Let's begin with two defining groups of verses in Philippians and Colossians:

[READ] Phil. 1:27-30

27 Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;

28 And in nothing terrified by your adversaries: which is to them an evident token of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that of God.

29 For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake;

30 Having the same conflict [lit. "agony"] which ye saw in me, and now hear to be in me.

[READ] Col. 1:23-29

23 If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;

24 Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church:

25 Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God;

26 *Even* the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints:

27 To whom God would make known what *i*s the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory: 28 Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus: 29 Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.

- Here is the heart of the doctrine of grace regarding the sufferings of the believer under grace today. May we take it to heart and rejoice in it. For it is our privilege under grace to suffer with Christ as members of his body enjoying all the benefits of his resurrection quality of life. Amen.
- Following Paul in this high calling is our opportunity! Now for the wonderful teaching in 2 Corinthians 4:

2 Cor. 4:5-8

5 For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.

6 For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to *give* the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

8 We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair;

[READ | 12 Cor. 4:9-18

9 Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed;

10 Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.

11 For we which live are alway delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh.

12 So then death worketh in us, but life in you.

13 We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak;

14 Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present *us* with you.

15 For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God.

- 16 For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward *man* is renewed day by day.
- 17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;
- 18 While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen *are* temporal; but the things which are not seen *are* eternal.

2 Cor. 6:1-10

- 1 We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain.
- 2 (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now *is* the accepted time; behold, now *is* the day of salvation.)
- 3 Giving no offence in any thing, that the ministry be not blamed:
- 4 But in all *things* approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses,
- 5 In stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labours, in watchings, in fastings;
- 6 By pureness, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned,
- 7 By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left,
- 8 By honour and dishonour, by evil report and good report: as deceivers, and *yet* true;
- 9 As unknown, and *yet* well known; as dying, and, behold, we live; as chastened, and not killed;
- 10 As sorrowful, yet alway rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and *yet* possessing all things.
 - Now, to how the Lord made Paul to comprehend this transforming truth about the sufferings today under grace and its abundance:

[READ] 2 Cor. 12:6-10

- 6 For though I would desire to glory, I shall not be a fool; for I will say the truth: but *now* I forbear, lest any man should think of me above that which he seeth me *to be*, or *that* he heareth of me.
- 7 And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.
- 8 For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me.
- 9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

 So Paul had well learned much as these 2 Corinthians verses say so powerfully. They along both so many others have changed my life and continue to do so today. Paul wrote again on this theme in Phil. 4:

Phil. 4:9-13

- 9 Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.
- 10 But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at the last your care of me hath flourished again; wherein ye were also careful, but ye lacked opportunity.
- 11 Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, *therewith* to be content.
- 12 I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.
- 13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.
 - And then there are all the other verses in his letters. Here are some:

Rom. 8:17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.,

2 Cor. 1:5 For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ.

Gal 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

2 Tim. 2:12 If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us:

Conclusions / Application:

The Genesis Themes and Their Consequences for Pauline Doctrine:

Summarizing what we have focused on today, it is our privilege to suffer with him for his glory and grace.

As members of his heavenly Body of Christ, our relationship with him is real, permanent, and intimate. So when he suffers, so do we, and when we do, he does as well. The same goes for our rejoicing and his as this is the nature of our union. Praise God for his unsearchable gift by his inexhaustible grace and love. Amen and amen.

May these verses draw us always into the realm of his working and his powerful grace as he transforms us day by day and hour by hour. And may we be a witness and a testimony always.

These verses have changed my life forever. What Makes the Difference for You?