

***“The Foundations of Our Faith Revealed, Theme by Theme in Genesis —  
The Genesis Themes and Their Consequences for Pauline Doctrine,  
Part 7”***

***Our Outline Today: The Glory and Its Reward, Verses that made a difference for me.***

***Last Time: The Mark and Its Testimony — in Jacob, in Paul, and in Ourselves:***

- ***The Mark and Its Testimony — in Jacob***
- ***The Mark and Its Testimony — in Paul***
- ***The Mark and Its Testimony — in Ourselves***
  - ***Jacob's staff was the mark of his testimony. But why should we make this so significant. It is only a walking stick or cane, right?***

***Because it is that significant. For Paul writes of this further in Hebrews in this way in 11:21: “By faith Jacob, when he was a dying, blessed both the sons of Joseph; and worshipped, leaning upon the top of his staff.” This is singled out as the one act of faith for Jacob!! Jacob finished his life well, worshipping on the top of his staff. It simply cannot be true the staff is not that important.***

***Consider the meaning of that.***

- ***The new Lord-given name, Israel or Prince, the hip infirmity, and therefore the staff accommodation are the foundation of Jacob's testimony. It is through his weaknesses at the hand of the Lord that the Lord determined to use for his glory!***

***What are our marks of testimony? There are some, I am sure.***

- ***The Mark and Its Testimony — In Paul***
  - ***It is an ongoing question unbelievers always ask (and believers do too) “why do good people suffer so much” if there is truly a God that loves them? An assumption underlies that question, that suffering in this life is the result of our sin and unbelief as God's children. But God has a higher purpose for bringing suffering into the life of a believer. And his higher purpose, as I have been sharing here in our studies in Genesis, is most important for us to know.***

***There 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 and then also to share with him in his glory! What an amazing privilege we have. In Paul we see that greater purpose magnified for each of us to clearly see how God is working today under grace through the Body of Christ, a doctrine that was never revealed by Christ in his earthly ministry, but only to Paul from heaven's glory.***

***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. This is heavenly teaching indeed. Amen. So blessed indeed is this teaching and the great work of grace in us that makes it a reality. That was our main focus in our previous study here. Indeed, it is one of the central teachings of the apostle Paul for us Gentiles — and it is largely being missed in the preaching and teaching so common today. For the focus for so many pastors and teachers in our own day is on Christ's earthly ministry instead of where it should be, on Christ's heavenly ministry through Paul, our apostle. There seems to be very little of that teaching today but so much on Christ's earthly ministry and on becoming more like him. The signs, wonders, and miracles are the focus today even though those were for the Jews at that time given to authenticate Christ's ministry as their Messiah. That is so very different from Christ's ministry today from heaven which is all about his grace.***

***But what does Paul write about that ministry from heaven? Last time we began with two defining selections of verses in Philippians and Colossians that state the Pauline teaching regarding suffering in the life of a believer:***

***Phil. 1:29-30***

***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. [So our suffering with Christ is a "grace" gift.]***

- ***That is the teaching. But how was that reality demonstrated in Paul's life for all to see? There are so many scriptures where the apostle of the Gentiles***

***Col. 1:23-25***

**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 *is* 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.

- *This at the very center of the doctrines of grace as Paul teaches it. May we take it to heart and rejoice in it and never skip past it or over it as if it is of little importance. For the revelation given by the ascended Christ Jesus to Paul for our benefit is the revelation of God's working in us believers today, under grace. The Law is not operative today, But grace is, as Titus 2:11-13 make so plain:*

**Tit. 2:11-13**

**11** For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,  
**12** Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

**13** Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ...

- *Indeed, as written here, we are a blessed and privileged people due to God's unlimited provision of his abundant grace through his son Jesus Christ. And it is our privilege to suffer with Christ specifically for the reason that we have been made members of his body enjoying all the benefits of his resurrection quality of life. This most intimate of relationships brings heavenly blessings both in this life and for eternity, but it also brings us into the realm of Christ's own suffering during this dispensation of grace. Amen.*

*Without those sufferings together with him we would therefore be missing so much of what God is doing today. We would be missing*

***the abundance of his LIFE. Following Paul in this high calling is our opportunity! To receive this abundant grace and to consequently reign in life though the one man Christ Jesus sharing his new life.***

- ***Now for even more wonderful teaching where Paul shares so powerfully his own Mark of Testimony in 2 Corinthians 4:***

***2 Cor. 4:5-7, 11-12***

**5** For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. ***[This speaks of our intimate union with Christ, doesn't it?]***

**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. ***[Christ was revealed in and through Paul]***

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

...

**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.

- ***Paul was testifying that being identified with Christ in his death has consequences. Being identified with Christ in his life also has consequences (or should if only ...). Paul was a living example for our sakes he writes here. May it be so for us, for you, and for me, today and always. These verses have changed my life. What about yours? May today be the day.***
- ***The wording here is so very important: "... in the face of Jesus Christ". I can do no more here this morning than refer you to some scriptures for further study: 1 Cor. 13:12, 2 Cor. 3:18 and 4:6, Gal. 4:11-16. I will read just one of those in its context today:***

***2 Cor. 4:13-18***

**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.**

- *What this says is really quite astounding if we would take it literally. Paul writes here that the Mark of his Testimony was through his suffering. The implication here is that the same may be true of us all!*
- *These scriptures changed my life. What about you and yours? May it be so for you too.*
- *Then we finished our study by seeing how the Lord worked in Paul to enable him to comprehend this transforming truth about the sufferings under grace today.*

**2 Cor. 12:8-10 [Concerning the thorn in Paul's flesh]**

**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. 4:9-13. Study those verses carefully for there is so much spiritual food there for our souls and spirits.*
- *And then there are all the other verses in his letters. I read some of them last time we met, specifically Rom. 8:17, 2 Cor. 1:5, Gal 2:20, and 2 Tim. 2:12. Our hearts so need this teaching.*

***Finally, we read those very intimate and personal words at the end of Gal. 6 where the Mark of Paul's Testimony was identified:***

**Gal. 6:17,18**

**17 From henceforth let no man trouble me: for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus.**

**18 Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.**

- *What mark has the Lord left on you, beloved?*
- *The Mark and Its Testimony — In Ourselves is in fact the focus here though it was all about Paul! That is because we are exhorted to imitate him as he imitates Christ in heaven's glory!! So the question remains, how is Christ working in us and what is the Mark of our Testimony?*

**Our Subject Today:**

- ***The Glory and Its Reward:***
  - *Israel's Glorious But Earthly Inheritance Promised and Confirmed*
  - *Our Glorious But Heavenly Inheritance Promised and Confirmed*

***I. Israel's Glorious But Earthly Inheritance Promised and Confirmed:***

- *Abraham's (and Isaac's and Jacob's as well as his offspring's) promises were for both a family and ultimately nation, AND a LAND and COUNTRY. But they did not receive this during their lives here on this earth and God will deliver it to them in resurrection glory in the Millennial Kingdom. The clearest promise to Abraham regarding this is in Gen. 15:*

***Gen. 15:12-16***

12 And when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and, lo, an horror of great darkness fell upon him.

13 And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land *that is* not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years;

14 And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance.

15 And thou shalt go to thy fathers in peace; thou shalt be buried in a good old age.

16 But in the fourth generation they shall come hither again: for the iniquity of the Amorites *is* not yet full.

***[READ ] Gen. 15:17-21***

17 And it came to pass, that, when the sun went down, and it was dark, behold a smoking furnace, and a burning lamp that passed between those pieces.

18 In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates:

19 The Kenites, and the Kenizzites, and the Kadmonites,

20 And the Hittites, and the Perizzites, and the Rephaims,

**21 And the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Girgashites, and the Jebusites.**

- *So God gave Abraham the land, a great land indeed, from the Nile river to the Euphrates. But these clearly earthly and in no way heavenly promises remain unfulfilled.*
- *But the patriarchs were all buried in the land of the promise as originally occupied as aliens and strangers, even Jacob. They looked for resurrection glory for their inheritance. But what about the next generation, what about Jacob's sons? Well we know about them through Joseph's last words and then from further commentary in Exodus and in Joshua and then in the Acts account of Stephen's final words.*
- *Joseph's also died with the hope of a glorious resurrection in the land of promise as he testified before his brethren:*

**Gen. 50:25-26**

**25 And Joseph took an oath of the children of Israel, saying, God will surely visit you, and ye shall carry up my bones from hence.**

**26 So Joseph died, *being* an hundred and ten years old: and they embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt.**

**Ex. 13:19 [Compare with Acts 7:14-16]**

And Moses took the bones of Joseph with him: for he had straitly sworn the children of Israel, saying, God will surely visit you; and ye shall carry up my bones away hence with you.

**Josh. 24:31-32**

**31 And Israel served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders that overlived Joshua, and which had known all the works of the LORD, that he had done for Israel.**

**32 And the bones of Joseph, which the children of Israel brought up out of Egypt, buried they in Shechem, in a parcel of ground which Jacob bought of the sons of Hamor the father of Shechem for an hundred pieces of silver: and it became the inheritance of the children of Joseph.**

**Acts 7:14-16**

**14 Then sent Joseph, and called his father Jacob to *him*, and all his kindred, threescore and fifteen souls.**

**15 So Jacob went down into Egypt, and died, he, and our fathers,**

**16 And were carried over into Sychem, and laid in the sepulchre that Abraham bought for a sum of money of the sons of Emmor *the father* of Sychem.**

- *All the others also asked that their bones be delivered into the land of their promised inheritance. Theirs was a resurrection faith but it related specifically to the LAND promises and their inheritance in that promised land. These promises are not about heaven as we normally understand it.*
- *Well, these scriptures in Genesis and in the New Testament changed my life so long ago ... and my whole approach to Biblical interpretation too ...*
- *As Heb. 11 indicates, our inheritance is significantly different than theirs in one major respect if not more: Theirs was earthly (and God will provide it in due time), while ours is heavenly. We are receiving our's before them according to Hebrews. We will receive ours at the Rapture while they will await the second coming...*

**Heb. 11:39-40**

**39 And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise:**

**40 God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.**

***But what about us? They had an inheritance here on this earth and expected it even when they were near death and knew that they would not be receiving it while still in this body. We have one reserved for us in the heavenlies. What about our promises? Are they not heavenly indeed? We shall look at them now and see.***

## **II. Our Glorious But Heavenly Inheritance Promised and Confirmed:**

- *Our Heavenly Inheritance is revealed only through the apostle Paul. See Gal. 1-2 for that, for there was a great division made permanent there as Peter and the Twelve were sent to Israel but Paul was sent to the Gentiles. We do not have any earthly Kingdom inheritance revealed anywhere by Paul.*

**2 Cor. 4:11-18**

**11 For we which live are always 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.**

- *This is precious and powerful teaching indeed sorely needed always by our spirits. The teaching here is quite astounding. For what it says is that the apostle Paul and by implication all believers today are part of a divine program under God's abundant grace whereby we are led into suffering "for Jesus sake", "that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh". Amen. Such a blessing indeed is ours today living under the rule of God's abundant grace, 2 Cor. 4:15.*
- *This brings a wonderful benefit for those not looking at the merely visible here on this earth (verse 18), but seeing all through the eyes of our saviour, Christ Jesus. For as verse 15 states with such power, God is working all things for our sakes so that "abundant grace" might be magnified "through the thanksgiving of many". Verses 17 and 18 show us the bottom line on this teaching, that our suffering in this life is lightened and momentary considering the eternal benefit promised. An "eternal weight of glory" is promised for us who suffer here but display the resurrected glory of our Lord Jesus. What an inheritance that shall be. Amen. So wonderful!*
- *So our heavenly and eternal inheritance is promised here with so many encouraging words that we need to always remember. These words and their power are transforming. They have been for me so often down through the years. Amen.*
- *Another Pauline reference puts in in just a few blessed words:*

**Rom. 8:18** For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time [are] not worthy [to be compared] with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

- **Most of chapters 9-11 of the great letter to the Romans are all about Israel until the middle of chapter 11 where Paul contrasts the promises to Israel with the promises to the church. The one was for the chosen nation with the law and the covenants and the other was for the Gentile (predominantly) church which is his Body without any promises of covenants given in the Old Testament. They had their glory promised for here on this earth while we have only heavenly promises:**

**Rom. 9:3-4**

**3** For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh:

**4** Who are Israelites; to whom [pertaineth] the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service [of God], and the promises;

- **That is how it was for Israel as we have learned from Genesis and the other scriptures. But under grace God has changed the “terms and conditions” and the promises from what they were for Israel. As Rom. 9:4 makes clear, they were “Israelites; to whom [pertaineth] the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service [of God], and the promises”. And God will still fulfill his promises in his own timing.**

**But today, under grace, we Gentiles who were separate from the promises and the covenants and without hope this world, have been saved by God's unmerited favor through grace. We need not “endure to the end to be saved” as seen in Matt. 24 & 25 and elsewhere, but rather as is also written in Rom. 9, verses 23 & 24, that Israel having been cast off for a time, God is now working according to a different plan in order “that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory, Even us, whom he hath called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles...”. Praise God for his unlimited grace and great gifts according to his boundless grace through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

- **Well, in Paul's letters there are the many passages where our hope, even the Blessed Hope, of deliverance from this earth before the seven year Tribulation begins. This has often been called the Rapture of the church which is his body and it is the next thing our calendar. Our eternal inheritance will be initiated there on that great**

*day. We will now read of that heavenly inheritance as Paul writes so powerfully in his many letters:*

**[READ ] 1 Thess. 4:13-18**

**13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.**

**14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.**

**15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.**

**16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:**

**17 Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.**

**18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.**

- *Even those that die before the Rapture of the church arrives will receive their heavenly inheritance together with us when we are called into glory. This will be the last event in the current dispensation, the Dispensation of the Grace of God. It will by necessity be before the beginning of the Tribulation period therefore.*
- *This is in no way as described by our Lord during his earthly ministry to the Jews as recorded in Matt. 24 & 25 and Mark 13 where endurance until the end during the coming Great Tribulation period will be required for salvation. Entry into that Millennial Kingdom is not possible otherwise for those living at that time with the challenges Satan will present with his mark and otherwise.*

***But for us, rather:***

**[READ ] 1 Thess. 5:9-11**

**9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,**

**10 Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.**

**11 Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.**

- *Take note that in all of these teachings of Paul for us it is not fear and preparation that is demanded by the Lord but rather comfort:*

**2 Thess. 2:1-2, 13-17**

**1** Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and *by* our gathering together unto him,

**2** That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.

...

**13** But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:

**14** Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**15** Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.

**16** Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given *us* everlasting consolation and good hope through grace,

**17** Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work.

- *There is so much spiritual food here for our hearts and spirits. We are so often in great need of the Lord's encouragement, amen? I hope and pray that these scriptures may be as transforming for you as they often have been for me.*
- *Another pair of verses that have so often encouraged me are those in 1 Cor. 2 that you here have heard me so often quote:*

**1 Cor. 2:7-8**

**7** But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, *even* the hidden *wisdom*, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:

**8** Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known *it*, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

- *And then there are the Ephesian and Colossian verses where Paul so powerfully states the truth of our eternal glorious blessing as Gentiles saved by grace through faith:*

**Eph. 1:12-14**

**12** That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.

13 In whom ye also *trusted*, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

*Eph. 1:18* The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints ...

- *These truths are written to the Colossian believers in this way:*

**[READ ] Col. 3:1-4**

1 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

4 When Christ, *who is* our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

- *So at the Rapture of the Church which is his Body we will be displayed to the entire creation as joined together with our Lord Jesus sharing his life and his glory. Praise God! Or, as written to Titus and then in Paul's last letter to at the end of his brief sojourn here in this life, to brother Timothy:*

**[READ ] Tit. 2:11-15**

11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,  
12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

15 These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.

**[READ ] 2 Tim. 2:10** Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

**2 Tim. 4:2-8, 18**

**2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.**

**3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;**

**4 And they shall turn away *their* ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.**

**5 But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.**

**6 For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.**

**7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished *my* course, I have kept the faith:**

**8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.**

...

**18 And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve [me] unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom [be] glory for ever and ever. Amen.**

- *The apostle Paul had exceedingly great confidence, didn't he? And for good reason, since the Lord from heaven had given him the teaching regaling the Church with its heavenly calling. He knew what so many today do not, Christ has secured us with a bond that cannot be broken, a bond that is founded on his inexhaustible love and grace for us sinners. And he writes that his confidence is meant to be an example for all of us, that we also might be similarly endowed with a heart-felt certainty regarding our future.*
- *These verses have been so encouraging to me. The promises given to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and then the Twelve constitute the foundation for Israel's hope.*

### **Conclusions / Application:**

### **The Genesis Themes and Their Consequences for Pauline Doctrine:**

***So, God's program of abundant grace for us is brought to us with the necessity that we suffer together with him. That is because of the nature of our union with him that is simply that intimate and real. When he suffers we do. When he rejoices we do. When we suffer he does. When we rejoice, so does he. That is the nature of our journey here in this fallen and sin cursed world.***

***But it does have an ending and that is revealed so clearly in Paul's letters and only in his letters. That is the glorious reunion with Christ in the heavenlies, meeting him in the air at the call, the shout, with the voice of a trumpet and of an archangel. 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. Do they also Make the Difference for You?***