

BIBLE STUDY

**PART 10:
DO YOU LONG TO BE WITH JESUS?**

**FOCAL SCRIPTURE
ROMANS 8:18-30**

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2050 THORNTON AVENUE GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI
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SUMMARY: Over the past several weeks, we have discussed various topics. Each topic asked questions designed to provoke a spiritual inquiry regarding each. The topics included:

1. Do you thirst for God?
2. Are you governed increasingly by God's Word?
3. Are you more and more loving?
4. Are you more sensitive to God's presence?
5. Do you have a growing concern for the spiritual and physical needs of others?
6. Do you delight in the Body of Jesus Christ?
7. Are spiritual disciplines increasingly important to you?
8. Do you grieve over sin?
9. Are You Quick to Forgive?

This evening we will discuss the last topic in this Bible Study series. The topic for discussion this evening is "DO YOU LONG TO BE WITH JESUS?" That is the question I want you to think about this evening.

QUOTE: "You may judge of a man by what he groans after." (Charles Spurgeon)

GROWING CHRISTIANS ARE GROANING CHRISTIANS:

Romans 8:18-30 – ¹⁸For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us. ¹⁹For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected *it* in hope; ²¹because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of ^acorruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. ²²**For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. ²³Not only *that*, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.** ²⁴For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for *it* with perseverance. ²⁶Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession ^bfor us with groanings which cannot be uttered. ²⁷Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit *is*, because He makes intercession for the saints according to *the will of God*. ²⁸And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose. ²⁹For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. ³⁰Moreover whom He

predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.”

2 Corinthians 5:1-5 -- For we know that if our earthly ^[a]house, *this* tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. ² For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our ^[b]habitation which is from heaven, ³ if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked. ⁴ For we who are in *this* tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life. ⁵ Now He who has prepared us for this very thing *is* God, who also has given us the Spirit as ^[c]a guarantee.

2 Timothy 3:1-7 -- But know this, that in the last days ^[a]perilous times will come: ² For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³ unloving, ^[b]unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, ⁴ traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵ having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! ⁶ For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, ⁷ always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Revelation 4:8 -- *The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: “Holy,^[a] holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!”*

Romans 8:23 -- Not only *that*, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.

2 Corinthians 12:1-4 -- It is ^[a]doubtless not profitable for me to boast. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord: ² I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago—whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows—such a one was caught up to the third heaven. ³ And I know such a man—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows— ⁴ how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.

Philippians 1:19-26 -- ¹⁹ For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, ²⁰ according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹ **For to me, to live *is* Christ, and to die *is* gain.** ²² **But if I live on in the flesh, *this will mean* fruit from *my* labor; yet what I shall choose I ^[c]cannot tell.** ²³ ^[a]**For I**

am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better. ²⁴ Nevertheless to remain in the flesh *is* more needful for you. ²⁵ And being confident of this, I know that I shall remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy of faith, ²⁶ that your rejoicing for me may be more abundant in Jesus Christ by my coming to you again.

Colossians 3:1-4 -- **If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.** ² **Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.** ³ For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ *who is* our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

1 John 3:1-3 -- Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of ^{1a}God! Therefore the world does not know ^{1b}us, because it did not know Him. ² Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. ³ And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.