

Sermon Handout

God's Plan for the World

Romans 8:18-32

I. Creation/Creature in the New Testament (19x)

a. Creation as a whole

Mt 10:6; 13:19; Rom 1:20; Col 1:15; Heb 9:11; II Pet 3:4; Rev 3:14

b. Creatures (usually specifies humans particularly)

Mk 16:15; Rom 1:25; II Cor 5:17; Gal 6:15; Col 1:23; Heb 4:13

Creator/creature distinction stated specifically in Rom 1:25.

c. Metaphorical I Pet 2:13 (governments created by man)

d. In Romans 8 (vv. 19, 20, 21; 22; 39)

II. References to Creation in Romans 8:19-22

a. The creation generally

i. Waits longingly for the revelation of God's children vv. 19

ii. Was unwillingly subjected to frustration by God v. 20a; 22

iii. To enable it to look forward in hope v. 20b

iv. The creation itself will be set free v. 21

1. From the bondage of corruption (at the resurrection v. 23)

2. Into the liberty of the glory of God's children

b. God's children can't be torn from Him by any other created thing v. 39

Though we also groan as we await the consummation vv. 23, 26

III. God's Process of Delivering the World from Corruption

a. We wait in hope for the final deliverance vv. 23-27

b. God's purpose is a good plan for the world, his children included v. 28

c. God's foreordained plan involves a process vv. 29-32

i. Christians are predestinated to be conformed to Christ's image

ii. Those so predestined are called to faith in Jesus v. 30a

iii. Those called are also justified v. 30b

iv. Those justified are also glorified v. 30c *cf.* v. 23

d. God's purpose and plan will not & cannot fail vv. 31-32 *cf.* vv. 37-39