

**Session 31**

We’ve been in Proverbs 1, examining the table of contents for adoption as it occurs in either program; Israel’s or the body of Christ’s.

Proverbs 1:2 To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding; 3 To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity; 4 To give subtilty to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion. 5 A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels: 6 To understand a proverb, and the interpretation; the words of the wise, and their dark sayings.

So far, we have seen that the first thing done is to set the son’s attitude, by way of exhortation, for the son to have a full appreciation for and begin to see the value of all that is being offered to him. That means that the son will begin to view his education the way his Father views it; as the most important thing he can put his hand to. It also means that the son’s desire to get that education will begin to match the Father’s desire to give the son that education. It means the son is not just blindly going along with this, oblivious to what this is all about, but the son understands what is at stake is his Father’s business and conducts himself and applies himself accordingly.

Another aspect of what you Father is doing when He exhorts you “to know wisdom and instruction” is to get you to understand just how important you are to the business that He wants to get done. He didn’t have to make you and me an integral part, but He chose to do so and formulated this wise plan of how all that would happen. But through “knowing wisdom and instruction,” you are to understand that you are important enough that He has invested both His word, and His Spirit within you, so that you can go through the rest of your life in vocational training. When you think about the Spirit that dwells within you, especially in the way the Scripture presents the information to you (i.e. you were “given the Spirit,” the Spirit baptizes you into Christ, [justification], the Spirit baptizes you into His death, burial and resurrection, [sanctification] and in the final component of that sanctification He operates in you as the “Spirit of adoption” by which you are “led” as sons!)

So, how important are you? Important enough that He has provided for you to one day drop this body of flesh and receive an immortal glorified body and be installed in a position in His business in the heavenly places where you will function as an extension of His intelligence, His holiness, His righteousness and His glory. And by the way, if your Father is going to all this trouble to utilize you in His business, then you also have an idea of how important the Father thinks the education is, for without that education, you will not be able to do what He designed you to do; labor with Him in His business.

We left off in our last session looking at the exhortation given in Proverbs 1 and we had traced our exhortation over to the book of Romans to just briefly look at some things. Now, I would like for us to return to Proverbs and look at this in more detail.

Proverbs 1:7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction. 8 My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother: 9 For they shall be an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck.

We are going to stop our reading here, even though this passage includes the verses down to verse 19. In those verses (the exhortation) you are told that as a son, you are immediately be faced with distractions, and you will encounter those who will attempt to pull you away from this. And I will tell you how they will do it; they will demand you time so that cannot engage in your sonship life. This society is built to make such demands on our time. But let's return to vv. 7-9 for now, we will get to that other later on.

And, again, as that first exhortation gets underway in Proverbs 1:7, I just want to remind you that when it says, “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge,” it is NOT referring to the fear motivation that existed under the tutor and governor system of the law. In fact, you will find this issue (the fear of the Lord) coming up, even in Paul's letters (in the doctrine that is supposed to be written on our hearts).

Proverbs 1:7 The **fear of the LORD** is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Paul does bring this issue up, several times:

2 Corinthians 7:1 Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness **in the fear of God**.

Ephesians 5:21 Submitting yourselves one to another **in the fear of God**.

Colossians 3:22 Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, **fearing God**:

The “fear of the LORD” (both in Prov. 1:7 and in all the passages where the apostle Paul uses it in a similar way) is not talking about being motivated to do something out of fear of God punishing you or cursing you or disciplining you or killing you off or anything like that at all. (sin unto death type stuff) Rather, it's fear in the sense of a godly, sacred respect and awe or reverence.

It's interesting that when you “revere” something or someone, that reverence or respect or “fear” is generated by coming to appreciate and viewing someone (God) as Superior in every way to you. It is a fear arising from 2 basic, fundamental issues:

- 1) from a clear understanding and appreciation of your weakness of, and dependence upon God; and
- 2) it is a fear arising from your obligation for favors received—(for instance the grace wherein He has dealt with you [which should have already been generated in you from the doctrine contained in Romans 1-5] — but also for having now received the adoption of sons, and all that now has been generated in you in light of the fact that God not only justified you, but sanctified you (and all those things you learned about that in Rom. 6:1-8:15)!

It's a godly sacred respect for what God thinks (and that that matters) and for what God does/is doing (and that that matters). Therefore, “the fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge” is really checking you out to say, ‘Look, if you’ve already had the proper, effectual working of all that you’ve been taught up to the point of, (and even including), the initial realization that you’ve been adopted as a son—if everything in your justification and in your sanctification up to this point has worked properly, then if my Father says, “This is important,” then my fear of Him (my sacred respect for what He thinks and for what He thinks is important or unimportant) greatly matters to me, and my fear is such that I don’t ever want to miss out on anything He esteems as important.”

In that way, that expression “the fear of the Lord” is really an expression indicating that you are afraid of missing something that He values and esteems! The truth of the matter is, fearing the Lord in this sense, is actually an issue of a properly adjusted attitude in the son, himself.

Now, I don’t want to over-simplify things, but let me see if I can boil this down to its essence. All of the things that you saw back in your justification (where God forgave your sin, imputed His righteousness to you and gave you permanent atonement) and in your sanctification (where he made you to be dead to sin, alive unto God and made you adopted sons) where God was building a track-record, so to speak, of His great wisdom and genius in knowing exactly what you needed and then doing it for you and giving it to you by grace as a free gift; knowing all of those things should have begun producing in you “The fear of the LORD” wherein “is the beginning of knowledge;” that is, there should already (if things have been properly working in you up to this point) have such a measure of faith built up in you so that you shouldn't have to be ‘pleaded’ with or ‘begged’ to see it, or goaded or prodded or anything along those lines when it comes to receiving the education as sons. No, you should already have a healthy, godly fear of the LORD, and that is the ‘kick-off’ (so to speak) that allows for the beginning of knowledge to naturally take place.

And I know I’m using some liberty here when I make this analogy, but you know that part of the job of the tutors and governors was to tell the child “about” his father and “about” his father’s business in such a way that certain attitudes about his father and his father’s business began to be formed in the child thinking, so that when the time came that the Father was looking to adopt a

son, the son’s heart was already “bent” in that direction, well, in the same way, all that you learned in the chapters leading up to Romans 8 were (in addition to the obvious doctrine contained in them) designed to produce that same “bent” about our heavenly Father and His business so that when He looks for a son to educate in His business, we are already “leaning” in that direction!

Now, let’s come back to: “To know wisdom and instruction.” We haven’t yet defined wisdom or instruction. In the past, we have defined wisdom and “knowledge properly put to use,” and that is sufficient for now. The word “instruction” has to do with “the imparting of knowledge or skill; education,” and that’s good enough for now too.

So, when you read that you are “to know” (the be aware that something exists and to appreciate its value) the “wisdom and instruction” (the imparting of knowledge and how to put that knowledge properly into practice) of your Father, then you can say that you, as a son, know that your Father has a body of information already formed and ready to go that contains all of His knowledge of what is right and good, and what is bad and evil, and it is to become the path or way of my life. It has the capacity of making sound judgments and choices and decisions—and He intends for that body of information to be put to use in the details of my life. You should also expect that He has developed a system or methodology of the proper order in which that wisdom is to get imparted from His heart to my heart and that system is the structure (or format or curriculum or whatever you want to call it) for the son’s education to take place. Included in that are checkpoints and marked progress and measureable development and so forth and these are provided for in the pre and post doctrinal exhortations.

The first thing my Father wants produce in you, right after you’ve been made aware of your being adopted as His son, is “to know” or become aware of the benefit, the profit, and the value of the information He’s about to give you (wisdom); as well as the way He’s going to give it to you (instruction).

In other words, not only does the actual information matter, but it also matters greatly as to the way He’s going to give it to you.

Therefore the Father, in order to make the proper impact on the son of these issues, will let the son in on the “big picture” (so to speak) of what His business is about and what the son’s labor with his Father is going to consist of. That is what is going to be happening when we “receive the words of understanding.”

Proverbs 1:2 To know wisdom and instruction; .....

Recap/Review:

At the appointed time in which the Father adopts his son, the Father does several things immediately upon adopting him that will (or should) to begin setting the son’s initial attitude

towards the education the Father wants to give him, which will all result in the son crying, “Abba, Father!”

The main reason for what the Father initially does, has to do with setting the son’s attitude to receive the Father’s education; to set the son’s desire to begin to match the Father’s desire toward giving it to his son.

Now, let’s identify some things in Proverbs with some things in Romans.

When you read in the table of contents:

Proverbs 1:2 To know wisdom and instruction;...

That is located in Romans 8:14-15:

Romans 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.<sup>15</sup> For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

There is a lot packed in those 2 verses that, upon reading them, you should have already gained an appreciation for. For example, when are told what you are in Romans 8:14-15, you should immediately understand:

- Your childhood training is over (T & G dismissed)
- A formal announcement of your adoption has been made
- Your previous inferior status of childhood, with all its limitations, restrictions and punishments, is finished
- The function of the Spirit of adoption is to lead through the curriculum (instruction) and the doctrine (wisdom) that pertains to your adoption

And the thing that should have jump started your desire to engage in what is being held out to you is that healthy, reverential fear for who your Father is and what He has done (and perhaps what He desires to yet do). That is what is meant by “the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.” The reverential “fear” that you have for your Father, is the initial thing (beginning) that allows you “to know wisdom and instruction” (which means to be aware of the value of it).

And where would you have developed that good kind of “fear” for your Father? It would have been developed in all that you understood previously in the book of Romans where you found out you were under the wrath of God, that God provided an escape from His wrath, that He offered it to you as free gift, that He forgave your sin, that He imputed His perfect righteousness to you, that He made you to be at-one with Him to the same degree as His Son, that He set you free from sin’s dominion over you when He made you dead to sin and that He made you an extension of His holiness when He made you alive unto Himself. If all of that did successfully build in you a sense of reverential awe and fear, then when you are told that you have also been

adopted, then you will not have the desire nor the understanding that an adopted son must have before he can even begin his education under the tutelage of his Father.

In view of all this, when you get to Romans 8:14-15, that cry of Abba, Father (which is the cry of son who is indicating that he wants to get going in this education) is not only a result of discovering that he has been adopted, but it includes all of what he understands the Father has done for him up to that point.

Moreover, as the Father initially begins to establish His son in his sonship life, the Father makes the son aware that He has valuable information that will allow the son to determine what is good and what is evil and that information is known by the son as his Father’s “wisdom.”

The Father also makes the son aware that He has set His wisdom within a form of education (or a curriculum) and by means of “the Spirit of adoption” aiding him, the son will be taken and led through the curriculum so that he gets properly trained and edified in order that he can, in turn, begin entering into laboring in the Father’s business and hence, the son is made to know the value and worth and importance of the Father’s “instruction.”

The result is that the son has generated within him a deep desire to emulate his Father, to learn His wisdom by means of His instruction, to walk in His Father’s paths and ways and to become skillful and capable to work with his Father in the operations of His business.

These are the major issues involved in that first ‘heart-to-heart’ talk the Father has with His son at the very time in which He makes the son aware of his adoption and this is what stands behind that son initially crying, “Abba, Father.” The cry of “Abba, Father” is a RESPONSE from a son to a father who understands not only that he has been adopted but you realize those other issues surrounding childhood and adoption. And the only way you can realize those issues will be from what you understand from your Bible, because the truth of the matter is, you’ve NEVER been under the law(that is, unless you stupidly put yourself under that system), and the truth is, you’ve never been a “child” in the sense of childhood treatment, at all.

Therefore, there is a difference between a son who has been under the tutor and governor system of the law (that is, a child who functioned under Israel’s program), and with us as the members of the church, the body of Christ, in this present dispensation of grace in which we live.

You were adopted at the very moment you were justified unto eternal life and sanctified unto functional life! It was something your Father did immediately upon saving you from the debt & penalty of your sins. It's just that you weren't told about it until the capstone of your godly sanctification “in Christ.”

Therefore, you probably won't have the initial sensation of relief from the inferior status of childhood. In fact, you have to go back and gain an appreciation for that by seeing what that was like in Israel's law program. And that matters, because that is supposed to provide you with a frame of reference so that the issue of adoption has an impact upon your inner man.

But even more than that, you have all of the information and all of the doctrine about your justified position in Christ, as well as all of the doctrine concerning your new sanctified identity in Christ, that goes to producing a “fear of the LORD” and an understanding and appreciation for the value and worth of being adopted as a son and beginning your sonship life.

The book of Proverbs, and the Table of Contents for the sonship education also provides for that initial awareness or knowing of the value and worth of the Father's wisdom and instruction. And in view of grasping that, a saint in the dispensation of grace, by the time he gets to Romans 8:14-15 has enough information to intelligently cry, “Abba, Father.”

It is about this time that a wise Father will begin to reveal to His son some of the matters concerning His business and the son's roll to play in that business. That would most naturally happen as you move to the next thing in the Table of Contents; “to perceive the words of understanding.” Perceiving the words of understanding would be information concerning the son's grand opportunity to labor with his Father in the operations of his Father's business. And this is designed to ‘pick up the slack’ of any waning in the son's level of enthusiasm and to make him cry, “Abba, Father” all the more.

You are going to come to understand that you are going to be crying Abba, Father at times other than the initial discovery of your adoption, just as the Lord Jesus cried Abba, Father just before He went to the Cross. The Lord Jesus was a full educated, perfectly educated Son of His Father by the time He was 30 years of age, yet at the end of his life and ministry, He makes that cry of Abba, Father. Do you know why?

Jesus makes that cry in response to understanding that the Father's wisdom calls for the Son to make that redemptive sacrifice on the Cross and that cry is one of agreement with what the Father wants to do. In other words, Jesus is intelligently understanding what His Father is

desiring to do and He is wanting what His Father wants. That is to say, Jesus is saying “yes” to what the wisdom of his Father calls for.

Now, I want us to return to Romans 8 and see some things before we move the last half of Proverbs 1:2.

Romans 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. <sup>15</sup> For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. <sup>16</sup> The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: 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.

I’ve told you before that you need to be careful when you get to Romans 8:17. Every believer is an “heir of God.” Not every believer is a “joint-heir with Christ.” There is an “if” attached to this. We will have opportunity later on to talk about what “suffering with Christ” is all about. All I want to do for now, is point something else out to you. We are not going to look at the details of this either, but I want you to see it and be aware of it before we go back to Proverbs. Starting in vs. 18, we begin a section of Scripture that runs down to verse 24, with vs. 18 serving as a kind of “bookend” and vs. 24 serving as the other “bookend.” Between those bookends, so to speak, sit a group of verses that serve as an encouragement to son. And when I say encouragement, I really mean more than just that, but those verses present, in only a general way, something that causes you to see the worth, the value, the importance and the grandeur of what your education as a son holds out to you. In a sense, it is the “carrot” that your Father is dangling at the end of your education stick.

Now, the 1<sup>st</sup> thing you encountered in vs. 17 is that you are an heir of God. Then He tells you that you have the opportunity to become a “joint-heir” with Christ. That ought to get you thinking.

Then, the Father is going to show the son the “bigger picture” of what this is all about. The son is going to be shown the scope of the end result of why he has been adopted to begin with and what his adoption as a son is about. If this is done properly, then you should never come to a passage in the word of God (that pertains to your education as a son) and say to yourself, “why do I need this?”

So let’s read vs. 18 which is the bookend that brackets this information that is meant to set the son’s attitude and ready him to receive the education he needs as the adopted son that he is.

Romans 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.



Now, you may be looking at that verse and saying to yourself, “That doesn’t look much like a ‘carrot’ to me.” When you see that you are going to be going through some sufferings, don’t get to thinking that the sufferings are the carrot. What your Father is after here is the “glory” that is going to be revealed in you.

By the way, this verse introduces one of the 3 major types of suffering that you will do in your lifetime. They are:

- The suffering of this present time
- The sufferings of Christ
- The suffering as a result of our stupidity

The sufferings of this present time are the things that happen to people in a fallen world, such as: sickness of all kinds, involvement in an accident, losing your job in a bad economy, being the victim of a crime, etc. Those things are not a result of God being angry at you or punishing you because you sinned or anything like that. The question was “why do bad things happen to good people?” Someone said, “there aren’t any “good” people.” But the question should be, “why do bad things happen to anyone?” And the answer is, because these things are not responding to some kind of performance system. And here is the more difficult thing for superstitious believers to wrap their mind around; when something good happens, that isn’t a “blessing sent from God” because you pleased Him.

You are not living under the performance system of the law in this dispensation of grace. And that is true on every level: personally, in your family, in your city, in your state, in your nation and in the world. There is going to be sufferings. God isn’t prescribing it and neither is the adversary; he is not given the right to do whatever he wants but he has to purchase the rights to do the things he does. But that’s another story for a different time.

Just to make this clear, God isn’t cursing the U.S. because our leaders encouraged Israel to trade land for peace or because they recognize a Palestinian state. God isn’t cursing America because of the abortions performed in this country. In fact, in the dispensation of grace, you cannot be cursed by God, it is impossible. That is something in Israel’s program that has nothing to do with you. What you do have is the entropy of your body and things around you.

But let’s get to the point of all this; everything God is going to teach you is going to provide so that at the end of it, no matter you may have gone through personally, you, with patience can endure it. In fact, He tells you in vs. 18 that no matter what you go through, when this is over, those things will not be worthy to be compared with something you are going to get with regard to your inheritance. In this verse, He calls it “the glory.” And that glory is going to be “revealed in us.” We are going to talk about what that means later on, but for now, look at the next verses given to you.

Romans 8:19 For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. 20 For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, 21 Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

When you see the word “creature,” it not referring to the earth. It is referring to this entire universe. Now I know the Bible doesn’t use the term “universe” or the phrase “outer space.” And again, I just want to say that I’m not pausing to prove all of this right now, I’m just trying to show you something that provide for some understanding when we return to Proverbs. But when God created the universe (or creature) He designed it to function to His honor and glory in a very particular way. When He created this enormous creature, because of an event that took place before man showed up on the planet, when you look out into the heavens with a telescope you are actually looking at something that has come under the vanity of corruption, so you are not seeing in the way God intended for it to function. In a manner of speaking, (and I mean this loosely) that creature died and you are only looking at a lifeless creature when you look out there. No wonder you can’t discern that it is a creature. It’s as though you are only looking at body parts of a creature that is so large you have never seen but a small percentage of its body, and at body parts that have largely ceased to function. It’s like looking through a telescope at a few body parts of dead creature.

Romans 8:20 For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope,

I want you to notice that when the creature was made subject to vanity, it was not willingly. That is, this creature has (or had) a will! And if something has a will, it has a soul. And if it has a soul, it will need a body that will contain that soul. Just as when God created the heaven and the earth, the heaven encapsulated the earth in its midst, the creature is the body that encapsulates the soul of the creature which, when it is restored will contain the soul (the Will!) of the creature.

The earth set up this earth for the purpose of setting up His residence on it, the rule from the midst of His creation. And because we know how to rightly divide the word of truth, we understand that our Father had designed it so that there is a segment of people that has dedicated to having rulership and dominion on this earth; and it’s not us, it’s Israel.

Jesus will sit on David’s throne as King of kings and there will be a structure of government under Him with resurrected David over Israel and the 12 apostles sitting on throne ruling the 12 tribes of Israel and around the world there will be the remnant of Israel who will be administrating the policies of the Lord Jesus throughout the entire earth.

But that is not what He is going to be doing with us. He suspended that program with Israel in order to form “a new creature.” That’s why you are called a “new creature.” And you are being given a glimpse, in Romans 8 of what your Father has designed for you to do.

Did you notice that when you got to Romans 8:19 and you read that word “creature,” that you are not given an explanation about that creature. So what does that tell you? There is enough information in your Bible before you get to Romans 8 to give you an understanding of what that creature is. What you are going to be doing in eternity is making that creature function again as it was created to do. In a sense, you are going to be the life of that creature. But that is not an entirely accurate analogy. But what I want to say to you is that not every believer will get to do that; only those who are “joint-heirs” with Christ who suffered with Him, they are the ones who get to do this.

But to be involved in the Father’s business in this huge, enormous creature – to bring that creature to the place where it functions to God’s honor and glory – that is the carrot that He is dangling out in front of you. And just in case you don’t quite see the “carrot” aspect of this and what makes this so desirable to be a part of, let me just say that you will not believe the details that are left out of this very small, very general explanation of these verses.

But just let this grip you: you are going to be part of a very small group of people who will wind up spending every day of your life until the day you die, as a vocational training ground that will enable you to sit in a seat of authority in the government of God and “run the show” so to speak, about making this creature function like it was supposed to all along but never has. As that begins to soak in and make an impact on you, when you see the magnitude of what all is involved here (and we, by no means, have explored that yet) it will set you attitude that there is nothing that you will ever do in your life (including being elected as President, finding a cure for cancer, becoming a war hero or saving the life of a drowning swimmer) that can possibly match this.

And I will tell you now that things like making lots of money, prosperity, popularity (fame) and the attainment of power are among the greatest distractions from this.

Romans 8:21 Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

That is going to happen when we get installed into those positions in the heavenly places.

Romans 8:22 For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.

Now the terminology changes from “creature” to “the whole creation.” What does “the whole creation” entail? That would be the heaven and the earth. The creature is just the heaven. But

verse 22 says that, not just the creature, but the whole creation groans and travails in pain to this day. And when that creation going to get delivered from that pain?

Romans 8:23 And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

That creature is waiting for sons to be adopted, educated and installed as sons who will relieve that pain of corruption. Notice we also “groan within ourselves” waiting for the adoption. Wait a minute, I thought we are already adopted. We are. But look what is attached to this reference to adoption; the redemption of our body. That is when we, as sons, get placed in the creature! We are not waiting to be adopted, neither do we have to wait to be educated, but we do have to wait for the aspect of adoption that provides for the redemption of our body which is the only thing holding us back from getting out there in the creature and going to work in the most glorious job a person could ever dream of!

Romans 8:24 For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? 25 But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.

When vs. 25 says, “if we hope for that we see not,” it is saying that if all of this produces in you what it is designed to produce, it is tantamount to your heavenly Father putting in front of you a taste of what His business is about – and that is supposed to have an impact on you.

But what I’m saying is that when you see it for what it is, when you see the magnitude of it, when you see the grandeur of it, when you see the privilege of it, - it should cause an attitude adjustment in that son or daughter that makes them say, “This is what I’m after. I’m going after this more than anything else in the world! Nothing in this world compares to it.” And I mean this is not going to be said flippantly or as some grandiose sermon that exceeds reality, but it is properly understood and it has truly made an impact on them so that it changes the way they spend their time. You no longer spend your time on worthless pursuits and useless endeavors. And that is going to be the barometer that tells the tale of whether this is really in you or not! It is going to come out in the way you “spend your time.” And I put that in quotes because I want you to realize that time is an expense.

And look at the end of verse 25:

Romans 8:25 But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.

If this all truly is making the proper impact on you, and you can see that whatever you go through as far as the suffering of this present world, that that suffering is not able to be compared with what is waiting for us out in the creature, then the end of vs. 25 will be a reality for you; that

is, as you “hope for this thing that is being held out to you,” no matter what you have to endure, you will patiently wait for it!

Here is what I know, even if I wind up like my own dad, whom I have always loved more than I can say, if I live long enough and I come down with Alzheimer’s disease and wind up in nursing home drooling on my lap, this will prepare for even that. Because I will know, that in a short while, this body, (which I have to trade in because it won’t function out there in the heavenly places) cannot be used in my Father’s business and it is going to be exchanged for something much better and I will have been prepared that no matter what comes my way, I can patiently wait for the “redemption of my body” aspect of my adoption which will result in me being “glorified together with Christ as a joint-heir” (vs. 17) and having a glory revealed in me that so far outstrips any and all sufferings that may come my way. And I believe that because my Father has told me, in a single phrase in a single verse that those sufferings are not worthy to be compared with that glory that is going to be revealed in me.

I told you way back in justification that your Father was going to be telling you some things that, if did not have implicit faith in what He says, there is no way you would ever believe it to be true. I also told you that when He told you about some things, you were going to have to take His word for it and His word alone because everything that you could see with eyes, hear with your ears and feel in your body was going to tell you the exact opposite. I told you a time was coming in which your Father was going to make a statement that you, in your common ordinary human wisdom and understanding, make no sense whatsoever.

When we talked about “reckoning” something to be so true that it changes your understanding of reality no matter what the perception of your own mind told you, no matter what your circumstances appeared as, no matter what other people said, you believed what God told you was true and your actions indicated that belief. I told you there would come a day when the issue would be do you believe it if God says it. I also told you that not only did it apply to “reckoning yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin” but that there were other things that you would not be able to see with your eyes, or look up in an encyclopedia or verify through eyewitness testimony, or attest to by scientific experiment – and you would be called upon to believe those things while everything else in the world flew in the face of what your Father told you – well, this is one of those times. Do you believe that the glory (and we haven’t even talked about what that glory is) but do you believe that it is so great that the sufferings of this present world are unworthy to be compared with it? Do you believe it to such an extent that you are willing to patiently endure all that comes your way in order to receive that glory? Can that become your reality in the face of everything that denies the truth of what your Father told you?

And you might have noticed that even though we have not nearly covered all the things that are in this passage, the only thing your Father has told you is that glory is so great, your suffering to get it will be nothing in comparison – and that ought to be enough! If He said it to you in His

word, and He tells you that the glory is connected to something you are going to be doing in the creature, if that isn't good enough for you – then you have a root problem with trusting your Father. If that trust issue did not get settled back in Romans 1-5, you not only have trouble with this, but you have probably had problems with things that should have already been put to rest; like your eternally secure position in Christ, like your sanctification being entirely by grace without any works on your part. And if that is the case, then you need to stop now and go back to Romans 1-5 and settle those issues once and for all. If that word did not produce in you an absolute assurance of your secure position in Jesus Christ, then edification did not take place for you. But if it did, then I would ask you to now reckon, what your Father has written in His word, to be so true that you can not only trust that what He said was true (believe) but it will change the way you live in accordance with that truth (reckon!).

Now, I'm going to stop going down through the chapter because we have come to what I was after, but I will say that as you continue on down through the chapter, things are going to be said that meant to produce a zeal and enthusiasm in you that creates a desire to get this education that matches your Father's desire to give it to you.

Well, when we come back in our next session, we are going to take these things back to Proverbs 1:2 and show the connection between this and “perceive the words of understanding.”