

# Romans 8:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

## Analysis

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**And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ** (ei tekna, kai klēronomoi; klēronomoi men theou, sugklēronomoi de Christou)—The logic is inexorable: children means heirs. Klēronomoi refers to legal inheritance rights. Believers are theou klēronomoi (God's heirs), inheriting not created blessings merely but God Himself as infinite treasure (Psalm 16:5; 73:25-26). Sugklēronomoi de Christou ("joint-heirs with Christ") is staggering: we inherit with Christ, sharing His inheritance—glory, honor, kingdom (Revelation 3:21; 21:7).

**If so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together** (eiper sumpaskhomen hina kai sundoxasthōmen)—The eiper clause assumes the condition is met: suffering with Christ is the path to glory with Christ. Sumpaskhō ("suffer with") and sundoxazō ("glorified together") use the sun- prefix ("with"), emphasizing union with Christ in both suffering and splendor. This isn't earning salvation but experiencing the pattern: cross before crown (Luke 24:26; Acts 14:22; 2 Timothy 2:12).

## Historical Context

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The Roman world offered glory through military conquest, political power, or philosophical achievement. Christianity offered glory through suffering—a scandal to Roman values. Early martyrs embodied this: suffering for Christ brought

eschatological glory. Tertullian wrote, "The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church."

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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1. What does it mean to be "joint-heirs with Christ"—how does this surpass all earthly inheritances?
2. How does suffering with Christ differ from mere hardship or persecution for other reasons?
3. How does the certainty of future glorification sustain you through present suffering?

## Interlinear Text

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εἰ	δὲ	τέκνα	καὶ	κληρονόμοι	κληρονόμοι	μὲν	θεοῦ
if	And	children	also	heirs	heirs	of God	G2316
G1487	G1161	G5043	G2532	G2818	G2818	G3303	
συγκληρονόμοι	δὲ	Χριστοῦ	εἴπερ	συμπάσχομεν	ἵνα		
joint-heirs	And	with Christ	if so be	that we suffer with	him that		
G4789	G1161	G5547	G1512	G4841	G2443		
καὶ	συνδοξασθῶμεν						
also	glorified together						
G2532	G4888						

## Additional Cross-References

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**Galatians 4:7** (References Christ): Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

**Galatians 3:29** (References Christ): And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

**Ephesians 3:6** (References Christ): That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:

**Revelation 21:7** (References God): He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

**1 Peter 4:13** (Glory): But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

**1 Peter 1:4** (Parallel theme): To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,

**Titus 3:7** (Parallel theme): That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

**Hebrews 6:17** (References God): Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath:

**John 17:24** (Glory): Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.

**James 2:5** (References God): Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?