

from sin with a freedom to serve God. As in Romans 8:1, there is no condemnation, a fact reflected later in the chapter after vs 28. We are redeemed: the price is paid and as we used to sing in the Gospel song... "Hallelujah"!

B. The reality of a new life "by Christ Jesus"

WE can track this out in 2 Corinthians 5 or in 1 John 3 with equal success. In Philippians 1 Paul states it emphatically with the words "Christ lives in me." God has not called us to restore or modify the old life but to enjoy a new life...a life lived in and by His Son. The believer should hold that to heart as a precious truth of the grace of God seen in His providential call.

C. The reality of Purpose "unto His eternal glory"

That is where we are headed and in a special sense where we already are. God's grace will see us to it. Can we miss it? Not if our faith is in the Lord Jesus who has already gone to prepare a place for us and as we read in Hebrews 6 is our anchor or seal to that end.

III. Conclusion: Living under Providence is a great truth and should live us every day of our lives. There is a sense in which all mankind lives under the general providence of God ("He makes the rain to fall on the just and the unjust") but ours is more than a general providence. It is a very specific work of grace and we live in thanks to our God. There is no other life that is really life at all. But when we forget we do not ruin the work of God but we do damage to ourselves in that we are not rejoicing and not emerging as conquerors in the struggles of this life. The grace of God is sometimes frustrated in a practical sense, a situation that can be seen clearly in Psalm 81. So the point is to know that you are saved and to live a life of trust and commitment to the Lord.

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MESSAGE # 3: THE CONTROL OF GOD

Biblical Passage: 1 Peter 5:10

I. Introducing the Subject: