

The Book of Romans

The Gospel of God

¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

¹⁹ For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God.

²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope

²¹ that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

²² For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.

²³ And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.

²⁴ For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he *already* sees?

²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it.

(Romans 8:18-25)

Groaning with Anticipation

Romans 8:18-25

Suffering and Glory

➤ Theme:

- present suffering is not worth comparing to future glory (*it will be worth it!*)

¹⁷ For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison,

¹⁸ while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

(2 Corinthians 4:17-18)

Suffering and Glory

- Theme:
 - present suffering is not worth comparing to future glory (*it will be worth it!*)
- Present Implication:
 - we suffer at present from a sense of incompleteness, and eagerly yearn for a culminating transformation
 - both Christians and all creation!

Suffering and Glory

- Yearning of Creation
 1. The Past
 - in the curse of Adam's fall, creation was subjected by God to the frustration of not being able to fulfill its purpose
 - but it was subjected "in hope" – the promise of restoration

Suffering and Glory

- Yearning of Creation
 2. The Present
 - all of creation is enslaved to corruption
 - the groaning of creation is yet filled with the anticipation of new life ("birth pains")

Suffering and Glory

- Yearning of Creation
 3. The Future
 - creation will not be annihilated but transformed – set free from slavery to the freedom of glory
 - this renewal of creation is inseparable from and in keeping with the glory of the children of God