

The Book of Romans

The Gospel of God

“D-Day” and “VE-Day” – biblical eschatology

“The hope of the final victory is so much the more vivid because of the unshakably firm conviction that the battle that decides the victory has already taken place.”

– Oscar Cullmann, *Christ and Time*

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 (pt. 2)

Groaning Children

- “Groaning” – an inward sigh of a frustrated longing

Groaning Children

1. Why do we groan?

- we experience frustration at the remaining moral and physical infirmities of our present condition
- we yearn for fulfillment because we have been given the first installment and down payment of final transformation (“first fruits of the Spirit”)

Groaning Children

2. What do we groan/long for?

- “adoption as sons” – our full manifestation and experience as sons of God
- “redemption of our body” – our final transformation into conformity with the resurrected glory of the Son (cf. Rom. 8:29)

we do not fully experience our status as sons until we are like the Son – this is what we long for!

Groaning Children

➤ Implications:

- our glorification is inseparable from a bodily resurrection/transformation (1 Cor. 15:42-49)
- since this hope is presently unseen, we must eagerly wait with perseverance