



Groaning with Grace on this Side of Glory

Sunday, June 13/21

Romans 8:18 – 30; 2 Corinthians 4:16 - 18

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us... we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. – Rom. 8:18, 23

So, we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal. – 2 Cor. 4:16 - 18

It is our unredeemed bodies which cause us to groan. Why is this? For one thing, these bodies are weak, fragile, and mortal, subject to fatigue, sickness, pain and death...what makes us groan inwardly is our physical frailty on the one hand, and our fallen nature on the other. So, we long ardently for the future glory, when we shall be delivered from both these burdens. – John Stott

Introduction: Our Suffering Compared to the Glory to Come (8:18)

1. All of Creation Groans (8:19 – 22)
2. We Ourselves Groan (8:23 – 25)
3. The Holy Spirit Groans (8:26 – 27)

Conclusion: *All Things Work Together for Good* (8:28 – 30)



Study and Discussion Questions – **Groaning with Grace on this Side of Glory**

Romans 8:18 – 30; 2 Corinthians 4:16 - 18

Open It

1. What sacrifices do people commonly make for the sake of a future reward?
2. What is the most severe suffering or pain that you have had to endure?
3. What makes it hard for some people to pray?

Explore It

4. How did Paul describe the difference between his present and his future? (8:18)
5. What is all of creation waiting to see? (8:19 - 21) Why are they forced to wait?
6. To what human experience did Paul compare his waiting? (8:22-23)
7. For what are the children of God waiting? (8:23)
8. What is and is not genuine hope? (8:24-25)
9. How does the Spirit help us in our weakness? What are the mechanics of prayer? (8:26)
10. For whom does the Spirit intercede? (8:27)

Get It

11. For whom does the Spirit intercede? (8:27)
12. What are some of the sufferings we can expect to experience in this life?
13. What does God promise to us that can make any suffering bearable?
14. How does suffering affect our relationship with God?
15. What frustrations do Christians feel as they wait for Christ to return?
16. What counsel would you give a Christian who has grown weary of waiting for Christ's return?
17. What circumstances make it hard to pray? What can we do about it?
18. What do we learn about God, knowing that the Holy Spirit helps us when we cannot pray?

Apply It

19. What do we learn about God, knowing that the Holy Spirit helps us when we cannot pray?
20. In what circumstances of your life do you need to wait patiently for God to act?
21. For what can you ask the Spirit's help this week?