



7/25/25

*On this week's podcast, we talked about the incredible birthday gift we receive from Jesus when we were "born again" into new life with Him. It's better than any gift we could receive here on earth. If you'd like to listen to the podcast, here's the link*

*~ <https://summitpoint.org/chosen-and-cherished/>*

*Romans 8:18-25*

*So far in Romans 8, I've learned that, through Jesus, God has set me free from condemnation and given me the Holy Spirit. By the power of the Holy Spirit, I am able to put to death the things that earned me condemnation, so that I would not be put to eternal death. I have also received the spirit of adoption so that I'm God's child and heir... I experience temporary suffering with Jesus... but NEVER eternal condemnation... but instead, I will be glorified with Jesus. Wow. That's a lot of receiving, especially since I did absolutely nothing to earn any of it. And now in Romans 8:18-25, I learn a little more about the suffering and the glory.*

*Vs. 18 ~ Everything that follows this verse is going to describe what it's saying... "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us." This is SO IMPORTANT for me to get. I do not have and cannot expect heaven on earth. This world is broken. This world is suffering the effects of the brokenness that came in when Adam and Eve disobeyed God. EVERYTHING was affected. EVERYONE was affected. So... what is the suffering and what is the glory?*

*Vs. 19-23 ~*

*The suffering of creation... Because of man's sin, the Father subjected the creation to futility... emptiness. Creation does not want this suffering just like I don't want the brokenness of this world. Creation is innocent. I am not. Creation is under bondage to corruption. How do I know? I see it... creation decays. No part of creation lives forever. It GROANS in its pain. I see this clearly as natural disasters seem to be occurring more and more frequently and severely.*

*Just as Paul said in Romans 1 that who He is can be clearly seen through His creation, I can*

*also see that the effects of sin can be clearly seen through the natural disasters in creation.*

*But... this suffering of creation is not worth comparing with the glory that's coming once those birth pangs are complete. Creation waits with eager longing for that glory. The Greek word for this also means "eager expectation." This is not wishful thinking. This is absolute certainty that the suffering of creation will end in hope. The proof of that end of suffering will be when the revealing, the unveiling, of the sons of God is realized.*

*The promise of freedom from the slavery of decay will come at the same time that the children of God are completely set free from the sufferings of this world. Revelation 21 speaks of a new heaven and a new earth that will never be in bondage to corruption.*

*To be honest, I have often just skimmed over these verses about creation because of my selfish heart. Do I care that creation faces these birth pangs? I need to! They are evidence to me of a broken world that still has hope. One commentary reminds me that these are not death pangs, but birth pangs. They are reminding me that yes, this world IS broken... and praise God, yes, this brokenness is temporary.*

*To be clear, I may be selfish by not noticing the decay of creation... but my selfishness shows even more by how I respond when the decay affects ME. When natural disasters bring ME tragedy. That's when I GROAN.*

*My suffering...*

*Yes, I am affected by the suffering of creation. I am affected by living in a broken world among broken people under the realm of the prince of darkness who wants to make me think that this is all there is.*

*But here's the amazing thing... God can and will use any suffering I experience on this earth to work good in my life... to make me more like Jesus. With God, my suffering is never wasted, not even the wasting away of my own body. Paul said in 2 Corinthians 4:16-18, "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." The eternal weight of glory is speaking to the glory that will be revealed to us. Any suffering I experience is preparing me for that... because I have the firstfruits of the Spirit.*

*What does that mean??? Ephesians 1:13-14 tells me that, through faith in Jesus. I have received the Holy Spirit as a deposit that guarantees my inheritance in heaven. Receiving the Holy Spirit is just the beginning. There is so much more to come. That is why I can look forward to heaven! So... knowing that I'm only tasting a little bit of the glory that's to come, I GROAN inside. The more I understand what's to come, the more I groan for it to come.*

*I remember thinking, "Well, I don't want Jesus to return for me until I've experienced*

*marriage... had a baby... done x, y, and z." But the more I understand who God is, the brokenness of this world, and the glory that is to come, the more I long for it to come.*

*This is the glory...*

*An eternal weight of glory... the freedom of the glory of being a child of God, experiencing the full rights and privileges of adoption as His child... experiencing my inheritance with Him... experiencing the fullness of being in His presence, experiencing that moment when my temporary physical body is transformed to be like His glorious body because Jesus has redeemed me... He has paid the debt I could not pay. That is my hope... my confident expectation.*

*Vs. 24-25 ~ For in THIS hope, this confident expectation, I was saved. I was delivered from the domain of darkness and transferred to the kingdom of Jesus (Colossians 1:13). I was rescued from the pit of hell and the condemnation that I deserve (Romans 8:1). I can't see this yet, but I can trust that it's coming. I don't have to live on a blind faith. I just have to remember the gospel and all the prophecies and scriptures that pointed to Jesus' first coming so that I can trust all the prophecies and scriptures that point to His second coming.*

*My call is to wait for this hope with patience... endurance... perseverance... just like I waited for my sweet girls to be born. All the pain and suffering I went through was totally worth it when I held them in my arms. How much greater the glory that is coming... when my Abba Father holds me in HIS arms!!!*

*O Lord, please help me to keep my eyes on the hope of what's to come and not be surprised at the pains of childbirth in this broken world. Help me to remember what I will learn from vs. 26-27... The Holy Spirit GROANS for me in my weakness and intercedes for me. He helps me to wait confidently, to persevere, to "press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:14). I am confident that this glory is mine because of Jesus. Praise Your name!*