
AMEN Bible Study 2026

“Sonship Glory is Worth Anything”

Romans 8:18-30
January 22, 2026

Introduction

A. Review of Last Week

1. J.I. Packer: “If you want to judge how well a person understands Christianity, find out how much makes of the thought of being God’s child, and having God as his Father. If this is not the thought that prompts and controls his worship and prayers and his whole outlook on life, it means that he does not understand Christianity very well at all.... ‘Father’ is the Christian name for God.” (*Knowing God*, 182)

B. Critical Question, in light of v.17 (“...Provided We Suffer with Him...”)

1. Is it BELIEVABLE?
2. Is it WORTH it, to the Point of Suffering with Jesus?

I. The Whole CREATION Attests Our Sonship Is Worth It (v.18-25)

A. FUTILITY of this Present World (v.20)

1. NOTHING is able to be all that it is meant to be
 - a. Everything always comes up short
 - b. “Cursed” – no subatomic particle is untouched by this futility
2. NOBODY can be more Realistic than Followers of Jesus

B. The HOPE of this Present World (v.20-21)

1. Creation’s Futility, Proudly Responded to, Leads to DESPAIR
 - a. Ray Ortlund: “Despair is the atmosphere in which most people live today. Their despair does not take the form of weeping and wailing. But they possess nothing that this life will not eventually crush, and they know it.” (*Supernatural Living*)
2. Symptoms of Despair (deaths of despair, debt spending, birthrates, escapist amusement)
3. Creation’s Futility, Humbly Responded to, leads us to TRUE HOPE
 - a. God did subject the world to “futility,” but He did so “in Hope”
4. Creation itself will be RESTORED and FREED and GLORIFIED
 - a. The True, Good and Beautiful will be Perfected
 - b. The False, Evil and Ugly will be Destroyed
 - c. “Ear has not heard, eye has not seen, mind has not conceived...” (1 Cor. 2:9)

C. Creation’s HOPE: the Revealing of the GLORY into the CHILDREN of GOD (v.19,21)

1. Creation is looking for our Glory (v.19)
2. Creation wants a loving, godly Governance back
3. As We Enter into the Freedom of God’s Glory, so does CREATION

- D. **Expressions of Hope** (v.22-25)
 - 1. Chorus of GROANING (v.22,23)
 - 2. Chorus of Eager WAITING (v.19,23)
 - 3. Patient HOPE (v.24-25)
- E. **Bottom Line: The Whole Creation says, YES, the Glory of Our Sonship is Worth it!!!**

II. GOD TRIUNE Guarantees Our Sonship is Worth It (v.26-30)

- A. **The Spirit Is with Us in Our Weakness** (v.26)
 - 1. We don't even know what to PRAY
 - 2. He is not SURPRISED that we don't know what to Pray for
 - 3. He is not DISGUSTED that we don't know what to Pray for
- B. **The Spirit VOICES Prayers for Us at the DEEPEST LEVELS** (v.26)
 - 1. He "Intercedes" – how much more MINDFUL can He be?
 - 2. He "Groans" – how much more WHOLEHEARTED can He pray?
 - 3. "... too deep for words" – how much more DEEPLY can He pray?
 - 4. "...according to the will of God" – how much more IN SYNC can His prayers be?
- C. **Our Father HEARS His Prayers** (v.27)
 - 1. "Searcher of Hearts knows..." – Can Our Father KNOW us any more DEEPLY?
 - 2. He recognizes the Spirit's alignment with Himself
- D. **God works All Things together for our GOOD** (v.28)
 - 1. "ALL THINGS"
 - a. This does NOT make evil things less evil in and of themselves;
It DOES mean that God uses even evil things unto His Glory and Our Good
 - 2. No such thing as irreparably "DAMAGED GOODS" (cf. Gen. 45:1-15; 50:20)
- E. **What is "the Good" He works all things toward?** (v.29-30)
 - 1. Image-Bearer of Jesus
 - 2. Brotherhood with Jesus – "firstborn among many brothers"
 - 3. A Goodness that stretches from eternity PAST to eternity FUTURE
 - a. "Foreknew"
 - b. "Predestined"
 - c. "Called"
 - d. "Justified"
 - e. "Glorified"
- F. **Bottom line: God Triune says, The Glory of our Sonship Is Worth it!**

Conclusion

- A. **For those who find His Sonship Worth It, This Life is the WORST It Gets**
- B. **For those who don't find His Sonship Worth It, This Life is the BEST It Gets**

AMEN Action Steps

“Sonship Glory Is Worth Anything”

Romans 8:18-30

HEAR the Word

“Open my eyes, that I might behold wondrous things out of your law.”
-Psalm 119:18

1. Write down concrete examples where life has come up short for you: education; athletics; job & career; health; family of origin; love & marriage; parenting; dreams; etc.
2. Ask your heart the honest question: to what extent does it genuinely feel like sonship in Jesus is worth suffering for? What does your heart (even if your head disagrees!) feel like it gives up to follow Jesus? What does your heart want to fantasize about for fulfillment?

PRACTICE the Word

“...Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on a rock”
-Matthew 7:24

1. When you pray, what does your mind tend to wander off into? What specific daydreams? What specific fears or anxieties? This is a good indicator of where your heart is fixing its attention.
2. Can you think of a time when you prayed really hard for something; Jesus said, “no;” and now you can look back and thank him for saying, “no”? If not, keep asking a friend or family member for such stories. The older the person, the more likely you’re to tell such stories. For most of us are pretty clueless about what we most need or even desire.
3. Based on what you find easiest to spend or give your money to, what is your heart tempted to put its hope in, rather than Jesus? How might you alter your money practices in such a way as to lead your heart towards greater investment of hope in Jesus? (where the treasure is, there is the heart).

RETELL the Word

“Go home to your own people and tell them how much the Lord has done for you...”
-Mark 5:19

1. In a world that essentially lives by the motto: “Eat, Drink and be Merry, for tomorrow we die”; how does your own life, and priority for your families, give evidence of a different motto? How would you word the motto of your life and family for them? For Yourself?