



The Groaning of Creation

Romans 8:18-22

I. The Weight of Present Suffering (v. 18)

- A. A sanctified _____ (v. 18a)
(2 Cor. 11:23-28)
- B. The _____ of “present sufferings” (v. 18b)
(Jn. 11:35; 2 Cor. 1:8; Psa. 13:1-2; 42:3-5; Jms. 4:14)
- C. The _____ glory (v. 18c)
(2 Cor. 4:17; Rom. 8:23; Col. 3:2)

II. The Frustration of Creation (vv. 19–20)

- A. Creation is _____ (v. 19a)
(Psa. 96:12; 98:8; Isa. 35:1; 55:12)
- B. What is creation _____ for? (v. 19b)
(Col. 3:4; 1 Jn. 3:2)
- C. Why is creation _____ (v. 20)
(Gen. 1:28, 31; 3:17-19)

III. The Hope of Liberation (v. 21)

- A. Bondage to _____ (v. 21a)
(Gen. 3:17-19; Acts 3:21)
- B. Set _____ into glory (v. 21b)
(Isa. 11:6-9; 2 Pet. 3:11-13; Rev. 21-22)

IV. The Groaning of a World in Labor (v. 22)

- A. Groaning _____ (v. 22a)
(Jer. 12:4, 11)
- B. Birth pains — Not _____ pains
(v. 22b) (Mk. 16:15; Matt. 24:8)

TAKE HOME:

- What suffering or “_____” are you interpreting as hopeless—when God means it to drive you toward hope in Christ and the coming glory?
- Where have you been trying to build “heaven on earth”—treating _____, control, health, or stability as ultimate—rather than living as someone headed for resurrection and renewal?
- How would your week change if you consciously _____ today’s headlines and your own hardships as “birth pains”—not funeral pains—because God is moving history toward liberation?

Application Questions

James 1:22 says, *“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”* These questions are designed to help you apply today’s message in your life. We encourage you to thoughtfully answer these questions and discuss your answers with others. For more information about joining a Small Group that uses these questions as the basis for discussion, prayer, and accountability, please call the church office at (661) 259-2913.

1. How does the reality of present suffering challenge or shape your daily perspective on life? (Rom. 8:18)
2. In what ways have you experienced the “groaning” of creation in your own life, and how do you respond to it? (Rom. 8:22)
3. Are there areas where you are tempted to minimize or deny your suffering rather than bring it honestly before God? (Ps. 42:3–5)
4. How might you reframe your current hardships as “birth pains” leading to glory, rather than as meaningless chaos? (Matt. 24:8; Rom. 8:22)
5. Where do you tend to seek comfort or escape instead of setting your hope on the future glory promised in Christ? (Col. 3:2)
6. How does knowing that creation itself will be liberated alongside believers affect your view of the world and your stewardship of it? (Rom. 8:21)
7. What would it look like for you to endure suffering with hope, trusting that it is temporary and purposeful in God’s plan? (2 Cor. 4:17)
8. How can you encourage others who are groaning under the weight of suffering to find hope in Christ and the coming renewal? (2 Cor. 1:3–4)

“Poor old nature tries every year to defeat the ‘vanity,’ the principle of death and decay and disintegration that is in it. But it cannot do so. It fails every time. It still goes on trying, as if it feels things should be different and better; but it never succeeds. So it goes on ‘groaning and travailing in pain together until now.’”

- D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones