

ROMANS: PART 45
JULY 21, 1996

We Groan
Romans 8:17-27

Suffering And Glory: The Pattern For God's Children. Romans 8:17-19.

1. Suffering & Glory are inseparable. Vs 17. Christ's pattern of life is our pattern of life.
2. Suffering & Glory cannot be compared. Vs 18. The glory so far exceeds the pain.
3. Suffering & Glory occur at two different times. Vs 18. We experience the *now but not yet*.
4. Suffering & Glory is the pattern for both Christians & creation. Vs 19.

The Groaning And Glory Of God's Creation. Romans 8:20-22.

1. **Creation was subjected to frustration. Vs 20.**
 - ♦ The cause was God, as a result of Man's disobedience. Gen 3:17ff; Rev 22:3.
 - ♦ The effect was *thorns & thistles*, painful *toil*, *death* & the process that leads to death.
 - ♦ The analysis: creation now experiences *futility*: frustration & emptiness. Cf. Eccles 1:2.
2. **Creation will be liberated. Vs 21.**
 - ♦ From the *slavery* (or tyranny) of *decay*: birth/growth ⇒ decline/death/decomposition
 - ♦ Unto the *freedom* (or liberation) of the glory: decay/death ⇒ glory/non corruption.
 - ♦ OT: Ps 102:25ff; Isa 11:6ff; 35:1ff; 65:17ff.
 - ♦ NT: Mt 19:28; Acts 3:19,21; Eph 1:10; Col 1:20; Rev 21,22
3. **Creation's pain & future glory is analogous to the labor & delivery of a baby. Vs 22**
 - ♦ στεναζω = Deep grief that patiently endures & is hopeful. II Cor 5:3,4,17; Mk 7:34; 8:12.
 - ♦ Future history is likened to childbirth: Mt 24:8; Mk 13:8; Jn 16:20.

The Groaning And Glory Of God's Children. Romans 8:23-26.

1. **We have the firstfruits of the Spirit -- not a perfectly received glory. Vs 23a.**
 - ♦ Cf. Pentecost = the celebration of the *first* harvest. (also II Cor 1:22; 5:5; Eph 1:4).
2. **We groan inwardly (fragile body & fallen flesh) as we wait eagerly for: Vs 23b.**
 - ♦ The full redemption of our bodies
 - ♦ The full realization of our sonship
 - ♦ The full harvest of the Spirit's work -- of which we already have the firstfruits.
3. **We were saved (aorist = past) in the (as yet unseen) hope of glory. Vs 24-25.**
 - ♦ We eagerly & patiently wait for glory. Vs 25.
 - ♦ We wait not so eagerly that we lose our patience. God cannot be hurried.
 - ♦ We wait not so patiently that we become apathetic or pessimistic. He keeps His promise

The Groaning And Help Of God's Spirit. Romans 8:26-27.

1. **What: He helps us as our "burden bearer"**
 - ♦ helps = συναντιλαμβάνομαι To *take hold of* with someone else. Cf. Lk 10:40.
2. **How: He intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.**
 - ♦ The Spirit prays *always* prays very perfect prayers for us. Lk 22:32
 - ♦ The Spirit is *always* heard by the Father who searches our hearts where the HS resides
 - ♦ This is not tongues or a special prayer-language:
 - The Spirit prays "for" us -- not through us
 - The Spirit prays for all of us -- not some of us (not all speak in tongues. I Cor 12:30))
 - "Tongues" is not mentioned in this verse, "groaning" is.
 - The creation groans, Christians groan, the Spirit groans. Definitely not *tongues*
3. **Why: We do not know how to pray as we should.**
 - ♦ We can be holy but still ignorant of our true circumstances. E.G. Job (Job 1:8; 7:20b-21)
 - ♦ We can be holy yet want imperfect things. E.G. Elijah (I Ki 19:4)
 - ♦ We can even want evil things. James 4:3.