

Romans 8:18-23

A New Creature

1. 8:18 – Present Sufferings

- a. Romans 8 wraps up what started in Rom 5:1-5 (suffering, glory, patience, hope, Spirit)
- b. There are three kinds of suffering: 1) natural; 2) bad choices; 3) for righteousness
- c. ‘Sufferings’ can include temptations/lusts that are crucified with Christ – Gal 5:24, 6:14
- d. Every kind is “of this present time” – Gal 1:4, Eph 5:16, Phi 3:7-10
- e. How do we think about our walk (life now) amid suffering and death.

2. 8:18 – Incomparable Glory

- a. *“not worthy to be compared”* – result of sin/world unworthy of glory by grace Eph 2:4-7
- b. The glory of this world comes to shame and vanity – Phi 3:17-19
- c. *“glory which shall be revealed in us”* – Teaches the mind of Christ – Phi 2:5
 - i. 1) Christ in us = we have a certain hope of glory (mystery) – Col 1:27, 2 Th 2:14
 - ii. 2) Eternal glory far greater than suffering and glory of this world – 2 Cor 4:16-17
 - iii. 3) This glory revealed later (now is suffering) – Col 1:24, Phi 4:19, 1 Cor 15:19-23
- d. Saved now, glory later (church) vs. glory later when salvation comes (Israel) – Isa 46:13

3. 8:18-19 – Waiting in Expectation

- a. *“earnest expectation”* – due to Christ in us, Spirit in us – Eph 1:13-14, Phi 1:18-20
- b. *“the creature”* – a created living thing (associated with bodies/flesh) – see Rom 1:25
- c. How to think of our body? As this (*new*) creature (2Co 5:17, Gal 6:15) which waits for...
- d. *“the manifestation”* – something to be seen clearly, revealed (us with Christ)
- e. *“of the sons of God”* – when we are clothed upon with glory – Col 3:4, 2 Cor 5:1-8

4. 8:20-21 – A New Creature’s Hope

- a. *“creature”* – Not here everything created, but that created in Christ – Col 3:10, Eph 4:24
- b. *“subject to vanity”* – Vanity found in the temporal, mortal, present world – Rom 1:21
 - i. Our present condition while Christ is in glory – 1Cor 15:14, 17, 58, Gal 3:4, 5:17
- c. *“not willingly”* – not our choice, but God’s purpose who also subjected us to hope.
- d. The reason is for us to walk by faith and ‘rejoice in hope’ now – 2 Cor 4:7, 5:7, Eph 1:18
- e. The body of Christ was subject to vanity, hope, glory – and now we are in His body.
- f. *“creature itself”* – Not just our soul/spirit, but our bodies, which is the body of Christ.
 - i. We will put on immortality and incorruption... in that day – 1 Cor 15:53-54

5. 8:22-23 – The Redemption of our Body

- a. *“we know...”* – Because we are also a part of the whole creation
- b. *“whole creation”* – Now expanded to the condition of every created thing
- c. *“groaneth... in pain together”* – we are not the only ones suffering now
- d. The world is cursed, God offers hope in Christ – Rev 21:4, 22:3, 2 Tim 1:10
- e. *“not only they, but ourselves also...”* – Saved people groan in pain, too.
- f. The difference? 1) we have the Spirit, 2) we wait for the redemption of our bodies.
- g. *“redemption of our body”* – the mystery found in Eph 4:30, 1 Cor 15:51-54, Phi 3:21
- h. This is known as hope. Hope is informed by the Spirit. Realized in redemption.