

Cornerstone Bible Church

Groaning with Creation

In Hope of the Resurrection

(Romans 8:18-25)

Survey of Romans part 26

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How do I know I am saved? Birthmarks of being a Christian

Paul expands on the subject

Text: Romans 8:13-17

Outline:

1. Living in the Spirit (verses 12-13)

a) The mortification of sin

2. Guided by the Spirit (verses 13-14)

a) To Freedom from a slavish fear

b) To Intimacy with God

3. The Witness of the Spirit (verses 15-17)

a) Of our Adoption, in Christ

b) Of our Inheritance, in Christ

c) Of our Hope even in suffering, because of Christ

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In the following verses (18 to 25) Paul expands on the subject of hope in suffering, as part of the overall theme of **Living in the Spirit**

Groaning with Creation in hope of the Resurrection

Text: Romans 8:18-25

18 [Because] I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

19 [because] the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God.

20 [because] the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it,

21 in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

22 [because] we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.

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Text: Romans 8:18-25

²³ And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

²⁴ [because] in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. [because] who hopes for what he sees?

²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

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Introduction: “Is earth disposable?”

- We cannot destroy what is not ours. Psalm 24:1 “The earth is the Lord’s and everything in it. The world and those who dwell in it.”
- We do not worship earth, but God who created it.
- However, we ought to be faithful managers of His creation.
- ... yet, we live in a fallen world, because of sin.
- It is that fallenness which breeds our hope in the resurrection and the renewal of all things.
- **Thesis:** Creation Groans and so do we, but in hope

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I don't have an outline for this class, but will simply follow Paul's thoughts through this passage of 18 to 25

18 Hopeful realism

¹⁸ [Because] I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us

- Hopeless fatalism => Determinism
- Biblical Christianity is realistic and hopeful

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18 Hopeful realism

¹⁸ [Because] I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us

- Hebrew Parallelism: present sufferings vis-a-vis the glories to come.
- The Glory is such, that it is not an even match.
- 2 Corinthians 5:1-4 compares a traveler's portable tent (sleeping bag of sorts) to a Corinthian building.

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19 The Longing of Creation

¹⁹ [because] the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God.

- Figure of Speech: “Personification”, Paul ascribes personal qualities to creation i.e. “longing”
- The “Apocalipsis” of the children of God **avpoka,luyin apo / kalupto**
- The public manifestation and unveiling of the glory of the children of God

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19 The Longing of Creation

¹⁹ [because] the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God.

- Matthew 13:43 “Then THE RIGHTEOUS WILL SHINE FORTH AS THE SUN in the kingdom of their Father.”
- Daniel 12:3 “And those who have insight will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.”
- 1 Corinthians 6:2 “Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world?”
- 1 Corinthians 15:42-43 “So also is the resurrection of the dead... it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power...”

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20-21 The Fall and its consequent curse on creation.

²⁰[because] the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, ²¹in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

- Despite the wonders of nature, we live in an accursed creation as a result of sin
- I do not expect to answer the Theodyssey dilemma.
- Why does an Omnipotent and Loving God allow suffering? He is neither omnipotent or loving.

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- Suffering is the result of sin.
- We lost the bliss of Paradise in Adam.
- This doesn't satisfy the skeptics but it is how Scripture treats the subject.
- There has been only one case of unjustified suffering.
- There has only been one good person who suffered unjustly by paying for what others did.

Groaning with Creation in hope of the Resurrection

22 An undisputable reality.

²²[because] we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.

- Creation groans, and has been groaning from the beginning
- Atmospheric Calamities, Telluric Disasters, Ecological Disruptions, Man-made Wrecks in Nature.

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- A note on environmental protection:
 - ✓ Adam was charged to tend a garden and rule the earth.
 - ✓ It is morally upright to be a good steward of creation.
 - ✓ It is morally upright not to contaminate ecosystems with industrial waste.
 - ✓ It is morally upright to prevent illnesses by controlling toxic emissions.
 - ✓ It is morally upright to preserve the purity of water sources.
 - ✓ It is morally upright to preserve ecological balance for the sake of animal and vegetative life.

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- A note on environmental protection:
 - ✓ Proverbs 12:10 “A righteous man has regard for the life of his beast, But the compassion of the wicked is cruel.”
 - ✓ The opposite is true: it is wicked to act cruelly - even to beasts - for the sake of greed
 - ✓ It is wicked to destroy God’s creation and harm our posterity resources for the sake of sordid gain.

END