

SAVED IN HOPE

A NEW PERSPECTIVE ON LIFE

Romans 8.18-25

“

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

”

Romans 8.18-25

“

For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body. For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he already sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it.

”

Romans 8.18-25

Romans 8.18

“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.”

- The “sufferings of this present time” are the challenges we face as children of God (8.14-17).
 - Note the focus on the children of God (8.1,9-16)
- The promise is that glory awaits after the sufferings of this life are past (8.30).
 - John 17.24; 1 John 3.2-3; Romans 2.7,10

Romans 8.19

“For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God.”

- Who or what is “the creation”?
 - How would animals and inanimate objects fit the context?
- “The creation” is a reference to Christians.
 - Paul uses this language in 2 Corinthians 5.17
 - This fits the context (8.1,9-18,28-32,36)
- When are the sons of God revealed? 1 John 3.2-3

Romans 8.20

**“For the creation was subjected to futility,
not willingly, but because of Him who
subjected it, in hope.”**

- How have Christians been subjected to futility?
 - The futility we are subjected to is death (8.19,23,36-37).
 - Death was given by God for man's benefit.
 - Without it, man eats of the tree and is an immortal sinner.
 - Without it, how does Jesus sacrifice Himself for our sins?

Romans 8.21

“that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God.”

- “Creation” is the same thing it has been throughout this context — Christians.
- Christians are eventually freed from the futility and slavery of corruption and death — that freedom is ultimately realized in the glory that is experienced by the children of God (cf. Romans 2.7,10; 1 John 3.2f).

Romans 8.22

“For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.”

- It is possible the “whole creation” is different contextually from “creation”.
- Paul may be speaking of the entropy we see all around us, moving us (humanity) to desire something more.

Romans 8.23

“And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.”

- Those with “the first-fruits of the Spirit” would be the apostles, the first ones to have the gifts of the Spirit and pass them on.
- Paul’s point is simple — the apostles didn’t enjoy a special existence. They, too, found themselves groaning for the liberated existence of God’s people.
- Paul’s context is future — this redemption is future.

Romans 8.24

“For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he already sees?”

- If we want to survive this life and receive what God has offered us, the key is hope!
 - What is hope in Scripture? Desire + expectation (v25)
- This hope drives us and, in that sense, saves us.
 - It saves us by turning our focus to Christ and the victory that is available in Him (8.1f,17-19,37).

Romans 8.25

**“But if we hope for what we do not see,
with perseverance we wait eagerly for it.”**

- It is hope that saves us because hope moves us to persevere through the sufferings of this life, so that we might receive what is offered — glory (17), redemption (23), victory (37).

What is here for me?

- **We shouldn't hush, but rather embrace, the inward desire for something more than this life.**
- **We need to allow hope to settle within our hearts.**
- **We need a proper perspective of death.**
- **Glory and sonship will come after our sufferings.**