

Mount Calvary Baptist Church
Lesson Title: From Groaning to Glory
October 30, 2018
Romans 8:18-30 (NIV)

Point of the Lesson: In the middle of the pain of life, we can know that our groaning's in the present will eventually turn to glory in eternity.

Introduction

Think back over a difficult time in your life. What predominant emotions did you feel during that time?

What makes it hard for some people to pray while suffering?

At the time, how did you think God felt about your situation and what did you think He was doing?

Understanding the Text

¹⁸ I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

Romans 8:18-21 NIV

What does this passage have to say about personal and global suffering? ([8:18-21](#))

How did Paul describe the difference between his present and his future? ([8:18](#))

Read 2 Corinthians 11:22-28. What made Paul the appropriate teacher on suffering?

²² Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they Abraham's descendants? So am I. ²³ Are they servants of Christ? (I am out of my mind to talk like this.) I am more. I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again. ²⁴ Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. ²⁵ Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was pelted with stones, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, ²⁶ I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my fellow Jews, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false believers. ²⁷ I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked. ²⁸ Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches.

For what reason has the world been forced to wait? ([8:20-21](#))

Understanding the Text

²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. ²³ Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no

hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

Romans 8:22-25 (NIV)

To what human experience did Paul compare his waiting? ([8:22-23](#))

For what are the children of God waiting? ([8:23](#))

How have you experienced the groaning of creation recently? What news stories have given evidence of this reality?

Understanding the Text

²⁶ In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. ²⁷ And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.

Romans 8:26-27 (NIV)

How does the Spirit help us in our weakness? ([8:26](#))

For whom does the Spirit intercede? ([8:27](#))

What is the relationship between God and the Spirit? ([8:27](#))

What do we learn about God's love for us when we realize that the Holy Spirit helps us even when we cannot pray?

Understanding the Text

²⁸ And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. ³⁰ And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

Romans 8:28-30 (NIV)

For whom does God promise to work all things for good? ([8:28](#))

How does God seek to change His people? ([8:29](#))

What does God want each person to become? ([8:29](#))

Apply It

In what circumstances of your life do you need to wait patiently for God to act?

For what can you ask the Spirit's help this week?

How can you commit your difficult circumstances to God this week?