

# From Groans to Glory

Rom 8:19-27

Ro 8:19 For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. 20 For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected *the same* in hope, 21 Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. 23 And not only *they*, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, *to wit*, the redemption of our body. 24 For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? 25 But if we hope for that we see not, *then* do we with patience wait for *it*. 26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. 27 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what *is* the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to *the will of God*.

## Introduction:

1. Everyone today has at least one thing in common - trouble.
  - a. We have all experienced trouble
  - b. We live in a world filled with trouble
  - c. And this trouble causes mankind to groan
2. At the end of a year there are often stories that recap the important events of the year - for example the year 2014 ended
  - a. A polar vortex flooded the US from Canada giving us some of the coldest temperatures in years
  - b. California continued another year in the worst drought in decades. The drought showed no signs of ending.

- c. Trouble between Ukraine and Russia
  - d. Malaysia Airlines flight 370 vanished on the flight from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing.
  - e. Ebola outbreak spread with thousands dying from the dreaded disease
  - f. 300 Nigerian schoolgirls kidnapped by radical Islamic group Boko Haram
  - g. ISIS gained ground as they captured city after city causing millions to flee
  - h. Michael Brown shot in Ferguson, MO followed by demonstrations and rioting
  - i. Robin Williams took his own life and died at age 63.
  - j. Bill Cosby rape scandal
  - k. Eric Garner died in NY. He was selling illegal cigarettes.
3. Romans 8:19-27 speaks 3x of this groaning
  4. This morning we want to look at three groans

## I. CREATION GROANS - ROM 8:19-22

19 For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. 20 For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected *the same* in hope, 21 Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.

- “Groaneth” in vs 22 means “to sigh”
- It has the idea of one groaning under a burden

### A. **Creation is Under the Curse of Sin - vs 20**

20 For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected *the same* in hope,

1. Creation is under the curse of sin
  - a) *Creation here is plants, animals, rocks, hills, rivers, oceans - we might say nature*
  - b) *Paul here personifies nature and gives it human qualities*

- c) *When God finished His creation, it was a good creation - Gen 1:31 - there were no deserts, no earthquakes, no thorns, no thistles, no death and no vicious animals*
- d) *But today it is a groaning creation*
2. Creation came under the curse because of the sin of Adam  
Ge 3:17 And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; 18 Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; 19 In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou *art*, and unto dust shalt thou return.
3. Because Adam chose to rebel against the clear command of God, all creation was put under a curse
4. The results of the curse are plain to see
- a) *There is suffering, pain and death*
- b) *Thorns and thistles*
- c) *Deadly animals*
- d) *Poisonous animals*

## **B. Creation Groans Like a Woman in Childbirth - vs 22**

**22 For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.**

1. This verse depicts creation as sighing and groaning like a woman who is giving birth
2. There is pain in childbirth, but the pain ends when the child is delivered
3. One day the curse will be removed and the groaning creation will become a glorious creation
4. Paul's message is that things are bad now, but they're going to get better
- a) *The birthing process is agonizing, painful and unattractive*
- b) *But all of that is forgotten when mom and dad hold that cute little*

### **C. Creation Longs to Be Delivered from the Curse - vs 19, 21**

19 For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. 21 Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

1. Creation expects to be delivered from the curse that has been placed upon it - Isaiah spoke of an earth that was no longer bound to decay and violence and fear

Isa 11:6 The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. 7 And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. 8 And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. 9 They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.

2. "Earnest expectation" in vs 19 has the idea of someone standing on his tiptoes and stretching his neck in order to see something
  - a) *Someone goes to the airport to greet an arriving loved one*
  - b) *There was a crowd of people who were all doing the same thing*
  - c) *They were standing on their tiptoes, trying to see, stretching their necks to see their loved ones*
3. Creation is pictured as yearning to be delivered from the ravages of the curse of sin - vs 21
4. While all of creation is under a curse, there is still great beauty in this world. Just call to mind many of the great vistas and views that are to be found all around us. Look at the beauty of flowers and the wonderful variety to be found in the plant and animal kingdoms. Now, try to imagine the most beautiful natural sight you have ever seen. With that image in mind, remember that what you saw was a sight marred by sin. Now, try to imagine how glorious that same

sight will be when the curse of sin is forever removed! Creation longs to be free and God longs to free it! He shall some day, for when Jesus died on the cross for the redemption of sinners, He also redeemed this sin cursed world. One day, the shackles will fall off and all creation will rejoice!

5. The groaning of creation will one day give way to the glory and beauty of God's new creation - Rev 22:3

3 And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him:

## II. BELIEVERS GROAN - ROM 8:23

23 And not only *they*, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, *to wit*, the redemption of our body. 24 For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? 25 But if we hope for that we see not, *then* do we with patience wait for *it*.

### A. Groaning is a Reality for the Christian - vs 23

23 And not only *they*, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, *to wit*, the redemption of our body.

1. Creation groans and believers groan

Ray Stedman says, "Our lives consist of groans. We groan because of the ravages that sin makes in our own lives, and in the lives of those we love. We groan because we see possibilities that are not being embraced; we groan because we see gifted people who are wasting their lives and we would love to see something better happen. We groan in disappointment, in bereavement, in sorrow. We groan physically in our pain and our limitation. Life consists of a great deal of groaning."

2. We have the firstfruits of the Spirit - earnest money, engagement ring
  - a) *Every believer has the Holy Spirit dwelling in him*
  - b) *With the Holy Spirit in us we became sensitive to sin around us and in us*
  - c) *As a result we are afflicted by the sins that we commit and the sin*

*that we see all around us*

- d) If sin does not bother you, then you have a spiritual problem*
  - e) We have a sense of longing - we long to be delivered from these sinful, mortal bodies*
  - f) Some day we will be glorified and we will be free from sin*
3. Christians await the redemption of the body
  4. We have the firstfruits of the Spirit and this is just a foretaste of the glory to come - there is more to come
    - a) This makes us want to receive a new body and live with the Lord forever*
    - b) We wait for "the adoption" which is the redemption of our bodies*

## **B. Believers Groan for Their Glorification - vs 24-25**

24 For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? 25 But if we hope for that we see not, *then do we with patience wait for it.*

1. Christians groan with the assurance of hope - vs 24
  - a) Biblical hope is not a wish or a want*
  - b) Biblical hope is an assurance based on conviction, it is a deep settled knowledge grounded in the promises of God*
2. We have a sure knowledge that one day our Savior will come for us and take us to heaven
3. We will be delivered from disease and death
4. We will receive new bodies like the resurrected body of the Savior  
"It will be worth it all, when we see Jesus;  
Life's trials will seem so small, when we see Him,  
One glimpse of His dear face, all sorrow will erase,  
So bravely run the race, 'till we see Christ.

## **III. THE HOLY SPIRIT GROANS - ROM 8:26-27**

26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. 27 And he that searcheth the

hearts knoweth what *is* the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to *the will of God*.

### **A. The Inability (Weakness) of the Believer - vs 26a**

26a Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities....

1. "Helpeth" - to share the load with another, to help someone bear his burden - to carry one end of the log
2. We have One who comes along side of us and helps us carry the load
3. We can't even pray as we ought
  - a) *Don't raise your hands - how many of you are weak in the area of prayer?*
  - b) *In the middle of suffering or trials we ask God to stop the suffering but we don't realize all that God is accomplishing through those trials in our lives*
  - c) *Paul made this mistake - 2 Cor 12:7-9*

7 And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. 8 For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. 9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.
  - d) *Paul was praying for the wrong thing*
  - e) *"Paul, you have no idea what I'm trying to accomplish in your life."*
  - f) *If the great saints can pray the wrong way, then I wonder how many times I have prayed the wrong way.*

### **B. The Ability of the Holy Spirit - vs 26b-27**

26b ....for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. 27 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what *is* the mind of

the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to *the will of God*.

1. We need to pray without ceasing, knowing exactly what is in the mind of God - but we are weak and ignorant
  - a) *Kent Hughes wrote, "The Holy Spirit does not just give us armchair advice. No, He rolls up his sleeves and helps us bear our weakness. How marvelous this is - we have two intercessors on our behalf; one in heaven - our Savior who intercedes for us - and one in our hearts, the Holy Spirit himself intercedes for us.*
  - b) *In the midst of suffering and challenging times when we don't know what to pray for or how to pray or when to pray then the Holy Spirit carries the end of the load by helping us pray as we ought.*
  - c) *The best prayer that you will ever pray is the prayer that you don't know how to pray, but the Spirit, the Comforter prays for you with groanings too deep for words.*
2. The Holy Spirit takes our prayers which are often flawed and misguided and He straightens them out and tells the Father what is really in our hearts
3. No one knows the perfect will of God in every matter but the Holy Spirit, who is God, knows the mind of God

## Conclusion:

1. Man's sin is responsible for disease
  - a. In the garden of Eden there was no disease or death
  - b. Those came when Adam and Eve sinned and brought sin into this world
  - c. Go to the hospital and get ready to answer a lot of questions
    1. Diabetes? Hypoglycemia? High blood pressure?
    2. Low blood pressure? Kidney stones?
    3. Page one is full of diseases and medical problems, then page two then page three
    4. Wow - look at all the things that can go wrong with the human body - so much sickness and disease

2. Man's sin is responsible for natural disasters
  - a. Hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, disasters
  - b. These are the result of the curse of sin on this world
3. Man's sin is responsible for the decay and corruption that we see all around us.
4. One preacher said, "I went to an orphanage in London, KY. It was in a beautiful mountain setting and there was a little chapel there at that Baptist orphanage. It had a beautiful window overlooking the mountains. The problem was that all along the bottom of the window were smudges and fingerprints. "Why don't they ever clean that window?" In a moment the director of the orphanage came in. He had become a friend of mine. "Why don't you ever clean that window? The director said, "You know what.... we clean that window every day but we can't keep it clean. We teach our boys and girls that Jesus is coming back and those little orphan kids are so excited about the return of Jesus that they crowd around that window and press their little hands and faces against the window looking for Him to return! That's why there are always smudges on the window." Are the windowpanes of your heart smudged up with the look of anticipation for Jesus' return?
5. Creation groans to be free from the curse, Christians groan to be free from these sinful bodies, the Spirit of God groans to see the will of the Father done in our lives and in this world.
6. When Jesus returns, then all our groaning will cease