

THE GOSPEL OF GRACE
A Study in the Book of Romans

Our Glorious Future Romans 8:18–27

“I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.”
Romans 8:18

Read Romans 8:18.

1. Read verse 18 with verse 17. What connection is there between suffering and glory?

How was Christ an example for us? (1 Pet. 4:1-2)

2. What are some of the sufferings that Paul personally endured? (2 Cor. 11:23–27)
3. Many of the sufferings of this life are horrific, and yet Paul asserts that they are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. What do we know about ourselves as God's children and about his glory?
Gal. 4:4–7

2 Cor. 3:18

1 Jn. 3:2
4. Much suffering is unavoidable. Think, however, about the suffering that you refuse to endure, e.g., a difficult situation or relationship. What might you be sacrificing by habitually avoiding suffering?

Read Romans 8:19–22.

5. In verses 19–22 what/who is groaning?
6. For what is creation waiting in eager expectation? (v. 19)
 - a. Who subjected it? (v. 20)
 - b. For what purpose? (v. 21)
7. “Creation” in verses 19–22 encompasses all of God's created world. How has creation suffered as a result of man's sin? (Gen. 3:17–19; Jer. 12:4)

Read Romans 8:20–25.

8. As children of God, what are we waiting and hoping for? (v. 23)

9. How do you think having the “firstfruits of the Spirit” (v. 23) intensifies our groaning?

10. Is verse 23 a contradiction of verse 16? If we have already been adopted, how can we yearn for our adoption?

Read Romans 8:24–25.

11. What is the key word in verses 24 and 25?

12. What do you think Paul means when he says that “in this hope we were saved” (v. 24)? What is the relationship between faith and hope?

13. How does this “hope” differ from the world’s idea of hope? (Rom. 5:1–5; 1 Pet. 1:3)

Read Romans 8:26–27.

14. What specific things does the Holy Spirit do for us? (vv. 26-27)

15. Often, we may feel that our prayers aren’t eloquent or even understandable. How do these verses encourage us?

16. Share one specific way you have seen the Holy Spirit at work in your heart.