

Romans Session 110
The Holy Spirit Guarantees Our Glory
The incomparable Gain of Glory 4

Romans 8:18 (NASB)

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.

We have been talking about the connection between our suffering and Glory.
The suffering in this life creates reactions that reflect the genuine condition of the soul.

God allows suffering to drive believers to dependence on Him, an evidence of their true salvation.
Suffering because of our faith not only gives evidence that we belong to God and are destined for heaven but also is a type of preparations for heaven.

That is why Paul was so eager to experience;

Philippians 3:8-10 (NASB)

*⁸ More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ,
⁹ and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith,
¹⁰ that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death;*

And he was determined to;

Philippians 3:14 (NASB)

¹⁴ press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

The more we willingly suffer for Christ's sake on earth, the more we are driven to depend on Him rather than on our own resources and the more we are infused with His power.

Suffering for Christ draws us closer to Christ.

Our suffering for Him also enables us to better appreciate the sufferings He endured for our sakes during His incarnation.
What ever ridicule, rejections, ostracism, loss, imprisonment, physical pain, or type of death we may have to suffer for Christ is nothing compared to what we will gain.

As already cited, these sufferings, no matter how severe they seem at the time, are no more than momentary light afflictions; Paul says;

2 Corinthians 4:17 (NASB)

¹⁷ For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison,

Our being born again, our being given hope through Christ's resurrections, our obtaining an imperishable inheritance with him, and our protection by God's power give us reason to greatly rejoice.

1 Peter 1:3-6a (NASB)

³ ***Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,***
⁴ ***to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,***
⁵ ***who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.***
⁶ ***In this you greatly rejoice,***

The apostle reminds his readers, however, that now for a little while;

1 Peter 1:6b-7 (NASB)

⁶ ***even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials,***
⁷ ***so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;***

Our eternal capacity to glorify God in heaven will depend on our willingness to suffer for God while we are on earth. As we have said before, persecution of some sort is not merely a possibility for the true believers but an absolute certainty.

Jesus said;

John 15:18-21 (NASB)

¹⁸ ***“If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you.***
¹⁹ ***“If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you.***
²⁰ ***“Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A slave is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also.***
²¹ ***“But all these things they will do to you for My name’s sake, because they do not know the One who sent Me.***

To take a strong biblical stand for Christ is to guarantee some kind of opposition, alienation, affliction, and rejection by the world.

Unfortunately, it also often brings criticism from those who profess to know God but by their deeds deny Him.

Titus 1:15-16 (NASB)

¹⁵ ***To the pure, all things are pure; but to those who are defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure, but both their mind and their conscience are defiled.***
¹⁶ ***They profess to know God, but by their deeds they deny Him, being detestable and disobedient and worthless for any good deed.***

Yet we have the Lord’s wonderful assurance that nothing we suffer for His sake will do us any lasting harm, because;

2 Corinthians 1:5 (NASB)

⁵ ***For just as the sufferings of Christ are ours in abundance, so also our comfort is abundant through Christ.***

We have no greater privilege and no greater guarantee of glory than to suffer for Christ’s sake.

The so-called health and wealth and prosperity gospels that abound today are not true to the gospel of Christ but reflect the message of the world.

The world’s seemingly good news offers temporary escape from problems and hardship.

Christ’s good news promises and includes the suffering for His sake.

Now that brings us to the comparison of Glory;

Romans 8:18 (NASB)

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.

Logizomai (to consider) refers literally to numerical calculation.

Figuratively, as it is used here, it refers to reaching a settled conclusion by careful study and reasoning.

Paul does not merely suggest, but strongly affirms, that any suffering for Christ's sake is a small price to pay for the gracious benefits received because of that suffering.

Romans 8:18 (NASB)

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, that is, our time on earth, “are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.”

In the New Testament, *pathema*, (**sufferings**) is used both of Christ's sufferings and of believers suffering for His sake. Resist Satan, Peter admonishes;

1 Peter 5:9b (NASB)

⁹ firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.

Paul assured the Corinthian Christians;

2 Corinthians 1:6-7 (NASB)

⁶ But if we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; or if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which is effective in the patient enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer;

⁷ and our hope for you is firmly grounded, knowing that as you are sharers of our sufferings, so also you are sharers of our comfort.

Jesus Christ is the supreme and perfect example of suffering for righteousness sake.

Hebrews 2:10 (NASB)

¹⁰ For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things, and through whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to perfect the author of their salvation through sufferings.

Just as suffering was essential to Christ's obedience to His Father, so it is essential to our obedience to Christ.

Those who do not know Christ have no hope when they suffer.

Whatever the reason for their afflictions, it does not come upon them for Christ's sake, or righteousness sake, and therefore cannot produce for them any spiritual blessing or glory.

Those who live only for this life cannot look forward to any resolutions of wrongs or to any comfort for their souls. Their pain, loneliness, and afflictions serve no divine purpose and bring no divine reward.

Christians on the other hand, have great hope, not only that their afflictions eventually will end but that those afflictions actually will add to their eternal glory.

Long before the incarnation of Christ, the prophet Daniel spoke of believer glory as;

Daniel 12:3 (NASB)

³ *“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.*

As followers of Jesus Christ, our suffering comes from men, whereas our glory comes from God. Our sufferings are earthly, whereas our glory is heavenly.

Our suffering is short, whereas our glory is forever.

Our suffering is trivial, whereas our glory is limitless.

Our suffering is in our mortal and corrupted bodies, whereas our glory will be in our perfected and imperishable bodies.

THE HOLY SPIRIT GUARANTEES OUR GLORY THE INEXPRESSIBLE GROANS FOR GLORY 1

Romans 8:19-27 (NASB)

¹⁹ *For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God.*

²⁰ *For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope*

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.*

²² *For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.*

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.*

²⁴ *For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he already sees?*

²⁵ *But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it.*

²⁶ *In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words;*

²⁷ *and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.*

In his climactic presentation of the ministry of the Holy Spirit in securing the no-condemnation status of believers (8:1), Paul focuses on His securing us by guaranteeing our future glory (8:17-30)

We have just studied the incomparable gains that believers possess because of their God promised glory, (vv17-18).

In this present chapter Paul focuses our attention on the anticipation of that glory, the incomparable groans of creation (vv19-22), of believers (vv23-25), and of the Holy Spirit Himself (vv26-27)

A groan is an audible expression of anguish due to physical, emotional, or spiritual pain.

These groanings bewail a condition that is painful, unsatisfying, and sorrowful, a cry for deliverance from a torturing experience.

We are going to start with looking at the Groaning of Creation

The next time together.