

# Vintage

## Week 8: Suffering (8:18-39)

**Summary:** *Why do bad things happen to good people? Why do we suffer if God is so powerful and so loving? Why believe in God in a broken world like this? Romans 8 provides us with solid answers to the questions which have long troubled Christians and non-Christians alike.*

Why do bad things happen to **God's** people?

- Romans 8:18-23: *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[h] the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God. 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.*

Things aren't the way they're **supposed** to be!

- Romans 8:26-27: *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.*

When you're suffering and at a loss for words, remember that God **knows** and God **isn't!**

- Romans 8:28: *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.*

When your suffering and wondering, remember that your **status** is certain.

- Romans 8:31-39: *What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? 33 Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. 34 Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? 36 As it is written: “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.” 37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

When your suffering and desperate, remember that God's **love** will carry the day.

### Points To Ponder

List 3 present sufferings in your life right now (physical, emotional, relational, financial, life season, on-going - anything goes). Write them down and then answer the following:

1. What is it about those “sufferings” is the most difficult for you? Be specific.
2. How does knowing that God knows your specific suffering, help you as you face it?
3. What comfort is there in knowing that when you are at a loss for words, God isn't?
4. Why is it important for Christians to remember that their status is certain in the face of suffering?

5. Reread Romans 8:31-39. Notice what God says and what he doesn't say about suffering.
  - a. God says - you will suffer but "I am for you", you will endure trouble but "you are victorious".
  - b. How do those promises and facts, help us face our sufferings?

***Homework: Romans 9:1-11:36***