

The Best Chapter in the Bible #7

Romans 8:18-25 Derek Thomas

Outline: (Or at least my best guess)

1. We live in a world full of suffering
2. Creation is longing for something
3. More is gained in Christ than was lost in Adam

Questions:

1. *"We live in a world full of suffering."* – How is that statement being realized in this world in the last week? If you embrace a theology of a suffering world does that seem pessimistic? Why?
2. Is the suffering in your life a result of your sin or is it just the way things are in this world?
3. Thomas says, "Yes, I see what happens all around me, I feel the frustrations of all that occurs around me and in me, but I 'reckon', I 'consider', I take a Christian worldview." How does that help?
4. What is the significance of the phrase in v.20 *"but because of Him who subjected it"*?
5. Referring to all the pain and suffering that exists in creation, Derek Thomas says this, *"These are not death pangs, but birth pangs."* Is that your perspective? How would you add to or revise that statement? Is that your first thought when you suffer? Why?
6. Calvin is quoted – *"God has so ordered the Church from the very beginning, that death is the way to life and the cross the way to victory."* How does that apply to every believer? Is this the common perspective of the typical believer (if there is a typical believer)?
7. Thomas says that although he cannot prove it, he believes that *"More is gained in Christ than was lost in Adam."* What do you think?
8. ¹⁸ *For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.* When Paul refers to "glory," how would you define it?
9. **1 Corinthians 2:9** *Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, neither has it entered into the hearts of men what God has prepared for those that love Him.*
"See suffering as the pathway that leads to the redemption of your bodies, and the glory, in all of its beauty..." – Derek Thomas
Does this help you navigate the struggles of this life? Why or why not?