

# Take Them and Learn to Run

Romans 8

Part 2

## Context of Romans...

- written by the apostle Paul around AD57
- to the church in Rome
- included Jewish and Gentile believers
- questions concerning the Law, identity, and salvation
- complete explanation of the gospel message of Jesus Christ

- Remember your standing in Christ – There is **no condemnation in Christ**. Our standing before God is based on Christ's work, not our own performance.
- Remember your internal posture through Christ - ***live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit***. What consistently occupies our heart and minds, reveals who is leading our life. (the flesh or Spirit)
- Remember your identity in Christ – We are Spirit-led Children of God, co heirs with Christ, sharing in Christ's inheritance.

**<sup>18</sup> I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. - Romans 8:18 (NIV)**

- **Sufferings** - “hardship, affliction.”
- **Glory** - “splendor, honor, visible manifestation of God’s presence.”
- **Revealed** - “to uncover, unveil, disclose what is hidden.”

**<sup>18</sup> I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. - Romans 8:18 (NIV)**

- **eis** “into us” or “unto us” - “idea of movement into something, not merely observation from the outside.”
- There is a movement occurring in the sons and daughters of God that is transforming us, revealing in us a future glory of God.

**2 Corinthians 3:18, <sup>18</sup> And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.**

- Is the glory of God revealed in the present-day church or the future church?
- The present-day glory is leading to an amazing future glory in the church...

The race to the finish line is ...

filled with suffering

that is the transformational  
journey

that reveals God's glory in us.

**<sup>19</sup> For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. <sup>20</sup> For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup> that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.**

**-Romans 8:19-21 (NIV)**

- **in hope** - God built redemption into the story

**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 first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. - Romans 8:22-23**

- 2 groans

- The whole creation has been groaning (22),
- We ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly (23).

- Groan
- “to utter a deep sound because of physical or emotional pain, to express distress, longing, or desire.”
- “idea of a deep sigh arising from pain, longing, burden, or earnest desire.”
- (22)** all of creation together are expressing their longing
- (23)** followers of Christ longing for **our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies**

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- When you find your self in a situation where you are groaning from the pain, the disappointment, the suffering ... turn that groan ... into a groan that is a longing for the future promised glory of God.
- Any place we are experiencing a painful, disappointing groan, is an opportunity to step into a biblical groaning that recognizes our present suffering as the road to our future glory.

Race to the finish line is ...

filled with groans

that lead to the freedom and  
**glory of the children of God;**

**the adoption to sonship,  
the redemption of our bodies.**

# **24 For in this hope we were saved. - Romans 8:24**

- We already possess salvation, and on our journey ... even though we experience the benefits of salvation along the way, there is an explosion of our future inheritance at our finish line.

**But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? <sup>25</sup> But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently. Romans 8:24-25**

- If we already possess something fully, we no longer hope for it.
- It is our lack that sets us up to experience hope.
- **wait for it patiently**, is “to look forward with anticipation” with “endurance, perseverance, remaining steadfast under pressure.”

- Paul is giving us a heart posture in our hope.
- God's hope is to look forward to the very thing we are anticipating, and to do so with endurance, perseverance, even when under pressure.
- desperation is “a state of despair, a loss of hope; feeling that a situation is so bad that there is little or no hope.”

Race to the finish line is ...

to allow biblical hope  
to be your compass of truth.

**<sup>26</sup> In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. Romans 8:26**

- Paul is saying in the same way hope sustains you while you wait, the Spirit sustains you in your weakness.
- **the Spirit helps** - it is “with + in place of/opposite + to take hold of”
- meaning “to take hold together with someone against a burden.”

**We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. Romans 8:25b**

- **intercedes** - “on behalf of, for the sake of, in place of” and “to approach someone, to petition, to appeal.”
- means “to make an appeal on behalf of another.”

**We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. Romans 8:25b**

- “a deep sighing, a cry arising from longing”
- inexpressible, beyond human speech
  
- The Spirit is not groaning because He suffers, the Spirit is groaning as an “expression of His ministry on behalf of God’s people.”

**We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. Romans 8:25b**

- Questions that never get answered ... in that we simply do not know?
- This is our weakness.
- Not the weakness that says you need to be stronger
- Weakness that is only strengthened through the help of the Holy Spirit

Race to the finish line is ...

ran best

with the best coach in the world,

Holy Spirit.

- The race to the finish line is ... filled with suffering that is the transformational journey that reveals God's glory in us.
- The race to the finish line is ... filled with groans that lead to **the freedom and glory of the children of God; the adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies.**
- The race to the finish line is ... to allow biblical hope to be your compass of truth.
- The race to the finish line is ... ran best with the best coach in the world, Holy Spirit.

