

**Romans 8:18-25**  
**For the week of March 19, 2023**

**Reflection**

1. What were some of the takeaways, for you, from Sunday's sermon?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Were there questions, comments, concerns...?

**It is a wonderful thing to belong to God's family, to be "heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ" (v. 17). Paul might well have gone from this thought to the magnificent vista that it opens out before us, and so he does in due course. But he was not unmindful that our heavenly destiny does not blot out the fact of our earthly existence and that that earthly existence is in a troubled world. There is pain and misery in this world, and they are not confined to human existence. Paul recognizes that there is pain throughout creation, and he writes movingly about it: "here we have, as nowhere else in the Bible—perhaps nowhere in ancient literature—a man who feels with the pain of creation" (Gore). But for Paul the great thing is that this is not meaningless pain, and he could look forward with confidence to the final unfolding of the purpose of God. He is sure of this, despite the pains of the present.<sup>1</sup>**

**Observation** (vs. 18-22)

3. What is Paul saying in these verses?

**Interpretation**

4. How do you define our present sufferings?

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<sup>1</sup> Leon Morris, [\*The Epistle to the Romans\*](#), The Pillar New Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI; Leicester, England: W.B. Eerdmans; Inter-Varsity Press, 1988), 318–319.

5. Note what the following verses say about suffering:

2 Corinthians 1:5 –

Philippians 3:7-11 –

1 Peter 4:12-13 –

1 Peter 5:6-11 –

### **Application**

6. How does God comfort you in your sufferings?

7. In times of your suffering, does the scripture “**My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness<sup>2</sup>**” help you? Why or why not?

### **Observation** (vs. 23-25)

8. Summarize these verses.

### **Interpretation**

9. How do you define hope?

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<sup>2</sup> [\*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version\*](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), 2 Co 12:9.

10. Why is hope such a powerful motivator in life? How can we as believers be confident in the hope that is described in verses 24-25?

11. How should we be waiting for the day when we are in the presence of our Lord and Savior (vs. 23, 25)? When is it hardest to do these? What difference would being eager and/or patient make at those moments?

**Application**

12. Think about your present status with God and the Spirit you have as a down payment. Then think about your hope. What specific areas of your life can your hope and down payment help you deal with patiently? How does your hope affect your attitude toward these circumstances?