

Romans 8:18-25 Hope in Suffering

Everyone suffers. Even creation itself suffers. And while we all suggest differently, we never suggest alone, and we can have hope in our suffering.

Topics- Hope, Suffering

=====

*1974 Road & Track classified ad- "1968 Mustang driven by Steve McQueen." \$6k. (Some sat 3500) Only 1 guy calls. Robert Kiernan. A new mustang cost 3100-3600.

*Fast forward to January 10, 2020, it sells at the Mecum's Kissimmee auction in Florida for \$3.74 million.

-

What can I know when I'm suffering?

-I may suffer, but I suffer in hope, because my suffering will end in a far greater glory.

-

What can I know when I'm suffering?

-1) That it will be worth it (v18)

-2) That I am not alone (vv19-22)

-3) That my hope is certain (vv23-25)

-

Romans 8:18 — For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

"consider / reckon" = logizomai (λογίζομαι); 1) credit something to someone's account (Romans 4);

-2) a settled conclusion reached by reasoning (Romans 6 & 8)

*MLJ- "The word reckon means this. It means that you arrive at a conclusion, at a deduction, from a process of logical thinking and reasoning." "It doesn't mean that you persuade yourself of something that isn't true. It means this: Realize it. Work it out."

Paul knows suffering...

2 Corinthians 11:25-27 — Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; in journeys often, in perils of

waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness—

*spurgeon- “Paul made ‘the sufferings of this present time’ into a matter of simple arithmetic and careful reckoning.”

2 Corinthians 4:17 — For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory,

-

Five Types of Suffering:

-Suffering for Christ

*MLJ- “Now, it's a simple fact that there was nothing which was more potent in bringing people to conviction and conversion in the early days of the church than the observation of the way in which these Christian people endured suffering...

*MLJ2- When they were put on trial, they were not confounded. Even when they were condemned and thrown to the lions in the arena, they far from grumbling and complaining were to be found thanking God that at last they've been accounted worthy to suffer shame for his name's sake.

Five Types of Suffering:

-Suffering for Christ

-Suffering from Sin (Ours & Others)

-Suffering from Spiritual Attack

-Suffering through Refinement

-Suffering from the Fall

-

What can I know when I'm suffering?

-1) That it will be worth it (v18)

-2) That I am not alone (vv19–22)

Romans 8:19 — For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.

“earnest expectation” = *apokaradokia* (ἀποκαρᾶδοκία); watching with head stretched out

-

Romans 8:20 — For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope;

"futility / vanity" = mataiotēs (ματαιότης); not fulfilling the function it was made for, with a built-in drift toward breakdown; the Greek OT's word for Ecclesiastes' "vanity."

"Was subjected" is aorist passive: a single past event, done to creation

Genesis 3:16 — To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children...

Genesis 3:17-19 — Then to Adam He said... "Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field. In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground..."

Suffering from the Fall:

- Why are there miscarriages?
- Why is there cancer?
- Why is there dementia & Alzheimer's?
- Why do earthquakes and hurricanes bury whole communities?
- Why do parents ever have to bury their children?
- It is because of the fall and the curse

-

Romans 8:21 — because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

2 Peter 3:13 — Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

Isaiah 55:12-13 — "For you shall go out with joy, And be led out with peace; The mountains and the hills Shall break forth into singing before you, And all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress tree...

Isaiah 11:6 — "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, The leopard shall lie down with the young goat, The calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little child shall lead them.

-

Romans 8:22 — For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.

*Hospital hallway

What can I know when I'm suffering?

- 1) That it will be worth it (v18)
- 2) That I am not alone (vv19–22)

You may know the pain of cancer, but not the pain of infidelity.

- You may know the pain of addiction, but not the pain of the loss of a child.
- The pain of loneliness...
- The pain of failing...
- The pain of rejection...

You may be the only one here facing suffering like your own, but you are far from alone.

-

What can I know when I'm suffering?

- 1) That it will be worth it (v18)
- 2) That I am not alone (vv19–22)
- 3) That my hope is certain (vv23–25)

Romans 8:23 — Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.

“we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit”

-

“even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.”

*Haiti Adoption

-

“the redemption of our body.”

At conversion our soul was saved and spirit reborn, but we still must wait for the saving of our body.

1 John 3:2 — Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

-

Romans 8:24 — For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees?

“hope” = elpis (ἐλπίς); settled expectation about the future — not crossed fingers.

Why is our hope sure & settled?

-Because we reckon it so

-

Romans 8:25 — But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.

"perseverance" = hypomonē (ὑπομονή); patient endurance — active, load-bearing, not passive resignation;

-hypo (under) + menō (abide) = to abide/remain under a weight or burden

1 Peter 1:6-7 — In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,

1 Peter 4:13 — but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy.

-

What can I know when I'm suffering?

-I may suffer, but I suffer in hope, because my suffering will end in a far greater glory.

1 Thessalonians 4:13 — But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope.

John 16:21 — A woman, when she is in labor, has sorrow because her hour has come; but as soon as she has given birth to the child, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world.

Two Things We Can Learn From Labor

-It increases in frequency and intensity

-It is bearable because of the hope of what is coming

-

Revelation 22:3 — And there shall be no more curse...

-Isaiah 35:10 — ...sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

-Revelation 21:4 — ...there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain...

-Isaiah 25:8 — He will swallow up death forever, And the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces...

Hebrews 12:2 — looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.