

Hope in Tough Times, Romans 8:18-27
Wednesday, November 30, 2016 – Terry Townsend

Following Jesus doesn't mean you (won't suffer)



2 Corinthians 1:8

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about the hardships we suffered in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired even of life.

2 types of suffering

1. Because we are followers of Jesus, (*persecution*)

Matthew 5:10-12

10 Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.

12 Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

2. Because we are members of the human race

Today's suffering can't be compared with (tomorrow's glory)

The Holy Spirit helps us in our (weakness)

(Creation) is groaning, 22 – animate and inanimate objects

One day Nature itself will be (redeemed) and (re-created)

Read Revelation 21:1-4

“new” *kainos*, not impaired by time or use; used for freshness

(Believers) are groaning, 23

The (Holy Spirit) is groaning, 26

1 Corinthians 14:14-15

14 For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful.

15 So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my mind; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my mind.

The Holy Spirit prays (from within) us

Our prayers are effective because we know we are praying according to (the will of God)

Our prayers are not (polluted) by personal agendas