



## Sermon Summary

July 2, 2023

### No Pain, No Gain Romans 8:18-27

Paul's mention of sharing in Christ's sufferings in order to share in His glory (v.17) led him to compare present suffering with future glory (v.18). The future glory is so great there is no comparison! However, in the meantime there is pain, suffering and groaning as we await that glory.

#### **The Creation Groans (vv. 19-22)**

When God finished creating, He declared everything very good (Gen 1:31). However, because of sin God cursed the creation (Gen 3:17-19). We no longer observe the good creation which God completed before sin entered. We see a world (1) subjected to frustration, (2) in bondage to decay and (3) groaning in great pain. The whole creation is eagerly awaiting (1) the sons of God to be revealed (2) its liberation and (3) being brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God. This will happen in two stages. The first will be the renovation of the universe when Jesus establishes in kingdom on earth (Isa 11:5-9; 35:1-2, 5-7; 65:20,25; Amos 9:13). The second will be the creation of a new heaven and new earth (Rev 21:1; 2 Peter 3:7-13).

#### **We Groan (vv. 23-25)**

Not only does creation groan, but we groan. We groan because we have received the Holy Spirit who is the firstfruits. The concept of firstfruits (v. 23) is prominent in the OT, where, according to the law, Israelites were expected to bring the first-ripe elements of grain, fruit, etc., to the Lord as an offering (Exod 23:19; Neh 10:35). In doing this the worshipper acknowledged that all produce belonged to God and by faith expected God to bless with a full harvest. The Holy Spirit is the "down payment" of the blessings we will receive. We know how great our life is with the Holy Spirit and we want more. We want all the blessings. We don't have everything now, but this is the hope we have now. Namely, that God will complete our adoption as sons by giving us glorified bodies at the resurrection and taking us to be with Him forever. This will happen at the Rapture (1 Cor 15:42-54; 2 Cor 5:1-5; Phil 3:20-21; 1 Thess 4:13-18).

#### **The Holy Spirit Groans (vv. 26, 27)**

While we suffer and wait eagerly in hope of our full redemption we don't wait alone. The Holy Spirit helps us. The word "helps" is a rich word that pictures someone helping another carry a heavy load. We in ourselves are weak, and God knows this. Therefore, the Spirit is our Comforter who helps us and empowers us as we suffer in life. The specific ministry of the Spirit Paul mentions in these verses is how the Spirit prays on our behalf. We don't know what to pray. Our prayers are often short-sighted and selfish, or we simply don't have words to express what we feel in our heart. But the Father knows our hearts and he knows the mind of the Spirit and so the Spirit can pray on our behalf the will of God.