Encounter Church

Sermon Notes

November 1, 2026 — Pastor John Vernon

Groans for Glory

Romans 8:19–27

Slide 1 — Romans 8:19-27

19 For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are. 20 Against its will, all creation was subjected to God’s curse. But with eager hope, 21 the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God’s children in glorious freedom from death and decay. 22 For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. 23 And we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering. We, too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as his adopted children, including the new bodies he has promised us. 24 We were given this hope when we were saved. (If we already have something, we don’t need to hope for it. 25 But if we look forward to something we don’t yet have, we must wait patiently and confidently.) 26 And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don’t know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. 27 And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God’s own will.

Slide 2 — Romans 8:19

19 For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are.

Slide 3

“apokaradokia” = Anxious and persistent expectation

Slide 4 — Colossians 3:4

4 And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory.

Slide 5

Colossians 3:4 (ESV)

4 When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Slide 6 — Romans 8:20

20 Against its will, all creation was subjected to God’s curse.

Slide 7 — Genesis 3:17–19

17 And to the man he said, “Since you listened to your wife and ate from the tree whose fruit I commanded you not to eat, the ground is cursed because of you. All your life you will struggle to scratch a living from it. 18 It will grow thorns and thistles for you, though you will eat of its grains. 19 By the sweat of your brow will you have food to eat until you return to the ground from which you were made. For you were made from dust, and to dust you will return.”

Slide 8 — Romans 8:20

20 For the creation was subjected to futility…

Slide 9

“mataiotēs” = The inability to achieve its true purpose

Slide 10 — 2 Peter 3:13

13 But we are looking forward to the new heavens and new earth he has promised, a world filled with God’s righteousness.

Slide 11 — Romans 8:20

20 …But with eager hope, 21 the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God’s children in glorious freedom from death and decay.

Slide 12 — Philippians 3:20-21

20 …we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior. 21 He will take our weak mortal bodies and change them into glorious bodies like his own, using the same power with which he will bring everything under his control.

Slide 13 — Romans 8:22

22 For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.

Slide 14

“In the Spring it seems to be trying to produce a perfect creation, to be going through some kind of birth-pangs year by year. But unfortunately it does not succeed, for Spring leads only to Summer, whereas Summer leads to Autumn, and Autumn to Winter. Poor old nature tries every year to defeat the “vanity,” the principle of death and decay and disintegration that is in it. But it cannot do so. It fails every time. It still goes on trying, as if it feels things should be different and better; but it never succeeds. So it goes on “groaning and travailing in pain together until now.” It has been doing so for a very long time … but nature still repeats the effort annually.”

Martyn Lloyd-Jones

Slide 15 — Romans 8:23

23 And we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering.

Slide 16 — Romans 8:23

23 …We, too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as his adopted children, including the new bodies he has promised us.

Slide 17 — Romans 6:5-6, 12-14

5 Since we have been united with him in his death, we will also be raised to life as he was. 6 We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin…12 Do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to sinful desires. 13 Do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin. Instead, give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God. 14 Sin is no longer your master…

Slide 18 — Romans 8:24-25

24 We were given this hope when we were saved. (If we already have something, we don’t need to hope for it. 25 But if we look forward to something we don’t yet have, we must wait patiently and confidently.)

Slide 19

Confident expectation based on a solid promise.

Slide 20 — Hebrews 6:17-19

17 God…bound himself with an oath, so that those who received the promise could be perfectly sure that he would never change his mind. 18 So God has given both his promise and his oath. These two things are unchangeable because it is impossible for God to lie. Therefore, we who have fled to him for refuge can have great confidence as we hold to the hope that lies before us. 19 This hope is a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls. It leads us through the curtain into God’s inner sanctuary.

Slide 21 — Romans 8:26

26 And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness.

Slide 22 — 2 Corinthians 4:7

7 We now have this light shining in our hearts, but we ourselves are like fragile clay jars containing this great treasure. This makes it clear that our great power is from God, not from ourselves.

Slide 23 — Romans 8:26

26 …For example, we don’t know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words.

Slide 24 — Romans 8:26

26 …with groanings that cannot be expressed in words.

Slide 25 — Romans 8:26 ESV

26 …the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.

Slide 26 — Romans 8:26 NKJV

26 …the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

Slide 27

“stenagmos” = “sigh” or “groan”

“alaletos” = “without words” or “too deep for words”

Slide 28 — 1 Corinthians 2:11

11 No one can know a person’s thoughts except that person’s own spirit, and no one can know God’s thoughts except God’s own Spirit.

Slide 29 — Hebrews 7:25

25 …He (Christ) lives forever to intercede with God on their behalf.

Slide 30 — Romans 8:26 ESV

26 …the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.

Slide 31 — Romans 8:27

27 And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God’s own will.

Slide 32

We should take comfort in the fact that the Holy Spirit is praying for us in perfect alignment with God’s will… 26 …with groanings that cannot be expressed in words.