

Bible Hour

An Exposition of: Romans 8:19-25

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Romans 8:19-21 (NASB)

19 For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. **20** For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope **21** that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

Romans 8:22-23 (NASB)

22 For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. **23** And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.

Romans 8:24-25 (NASB)

24 For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he already sees? **25** But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it.

Lesson Outline:

1. The *Anxiety* of Creation (vv. 19-21).
2. The *Anguish* of Creation (v. 22).
3. The *Expectation* of Adoption (v. 23).
4. The *Anticipation* of Redemption (vv. 24-25).

I. The *Anxiety* of
Creation
(vv. 19-21)

Romans 8:18

“... the *sufferings* of this present time.”

sufferings = pathēma [πάθημα] =
an affliction

“anxious longing”

a p o k a r a d o k i a

ἀποκαραδοκία = to watch with
outstretched head

Philippians 1:20: “... according to my
earnest expectation (apokaradokia)
and hope, that I will not be put to
shame ...”

“Sin corrupts *everything* it touches—and sin touches *everything*.”

~ Pastor Darrell

Ralph Venning (1621-1674)

“Sin may be arraigned for **all** the mischiefs and villainies that have been done in the world; it is the master of misrule, the author of sedition, the builder of Babel, and the troubler of **all** mankind.”

Romans 8:21

“... that the creation itself also will
be set free from its slavery to
corruption.”

corruption = phthora [φθορά] =
destruction, decay

William Beveridge (1621-1674)

“I cannot pray, except I sin. I cannot preach, but I sin. I cannot administer, nor receive the holy sacrament, but I sin. My very repentance needs to be repented of, and the tears I shed need washing in the blood of Christ.”

II. The *Anguish* of Creation (v. 22)

IV. The *Expectation* of *Adoption* (v. 23)

“Already, Not Yet” (Romans 8:23)

- *already* adopted in Christ (Romans 8:15), but *not yet ultimately* adopted (Romans 8:23);
- *already* redeemed in Christ (Ephesians 1:7), but *not yet ultimately* redeemed (Ephesians 4:30);
- *already* sanctified in Christ (1 Corinthians 1:2), but *not yet ultimately* sanctified (1 Thessalonians 5:23–24);
- *already* saved in Christ (Ephesians 2:8), but *not yet ultimately* saved (Romans 5:9);
- *already* raised with Christ (Ephesians 2:6), but *not yet ultimately* raised (1 Corinthians 15:52).

The *Anticipation* of
Redemption
(vv. 24-25)

Cecil Frances Alexander

(1818–1895)



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Discussion Questions

1. Where do you experience the tension between what God has already done and what you still long for?
2. What spiritual disciplines help you live faithfully in this “already-not yet” reality?
3. What does it mean for the Church to participate in God’s renewing work in the world?