

## **Bibles???**

### **The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority**

Turn your bibles with me to Romans 8

We are continuing our verse-by-verse study through this amazing letter that the Apostle Paul wrote to the believers in Rome and to us today about the fundamentals of Christianity –

That the just shall live by faith

Our justification, our sanctification and our glorification – are all works of God in our lives.

As He delivers us from penalty of sin and the power of sin and ultimately from the presence of sin.

And part of that work that He does is us and through us – is done through suffering and pain.

Suffering and pain that will lead us to groaning.

This is what Paul is going to be talking about in our text -

Let's pray...

Read Text – Romans 8:19-27

Sin has done so much more damage than we could ever truly imagine.

We just spent all of last week on verse 18 – where Paul focused on one aspect of that damage and it has to do with our suffering.

We will face great suffering.

We will have seasons of suffering in our walk because we live in a fallen world

We will have seasons of suffering in our walk because of the sins of others and because of our sin.

But Paul reminded us of this amazing promise that for the believer – the person who has placed their faith and trust in Jesus Christ – the sufferings that we are currently going through – are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

Our suffering is only temporary – it doesn't follow us into eternity.

And it doesn't compare to the glory that is going to be revealed in us.

Paul doesn't say that the glory is going to be a little bit better –

He said that it is not even comparable – it is not even worthy to be put next to one another.

And yet,

What is the source of all the suffering?

The fears

The anxiety

The pain

The sorrows

The sadnesses

All of it came from sin and its effects on our life.

Sin had done great damage –

Keep your finger in Romans 8 and

Turn with me to Genesis 3 –

Because I want us to grasp a little bit more of what sin has done – and in order to do that we have to look at the origin of sin.

**[Gen 3:1-6 NKJV] 1 Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?" 2 And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; 3 "but of the**

**fruit of the tree which [is] in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.' "**

By the way – God never said anything about touching it – Eve was adding to God's word

**4 Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. 5 "For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." 6 So when the woman saw that the tree [was] good for food, that it [was] pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make [one] wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and (said stop woman, what are you doing!!!! – it doesn't say that) **he ate.****

And as a result – sin entered the world.

As a result - Sin has been passed down to all humanity because Adam was our representative – we looked at this back in Rom 5.

God condemned all of humanity because of the actions of one man – and we would have done exactly the same thing given the same temptation.

But God, made one way to forgive man's sin through one man – Jesus Christ.

Jump down to verse 17

**[Gen 3:17-19 NKJV] 17 Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "Cursed [is] the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat [of] it All the days of your life. 18 Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field. 19 In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you [are], And to dust you shall return."**

So – we see here in verse 17-19

That not only did sin affect us and our relationship with God

Sin's effect is felt among creation itself –

Because creation was placed under the dominion of Adam, when he fell creation fell with him.

The death that came as the legacy of sin affected all creation.

Before the fall of man –

There were no jumping chollas

Adam and Eve were not spending their Saturday afternoon pulling weeds from the ground or from their garden or spraying Roundup on their driveway – because there were no weeds.

When we read the story of creation – the bible tells us that when God created the heavens and the earth – He created them good – not bad.

Look at verse 19 – back in Romans.

**[Rom 8:19-27 NKJV] 19 For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits 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 because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.**

Creation today – as we see it – it is not what God intended in the Garden of Eden

And so what Paul says here is that when the consummation of all things takes place, this creation which is broken,

this creation which is fallen,

This creation which is hurt

The bible says that God will recreate creation.

God is going to bring creation back to the pre-fall conditions –

the way it was in the Garden of Eden

**[Isa 65:17 NKJV] 17 “For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; And the former shall not be remembered or come to mind.**

Rev 21 –all things made new.

And until that time – Paul tells us that creation eagerly waits – I had you make a note of that phrase.

Because in the original Greek – the word that is used is a word that describes something that many of us are familiar with driving up and down I19

It is the act of rubbernecking.

We are all guilty of it right?

There is something about a car accident that makes us want to look -

We rubberneck – we slow down – we may even roll down the window and we start to stare with great curiosity.

“What’s happening??”

Paul says that this is exactly what creation is doing – creation is rubbernecking

But the wreck that creation is watching is you and me.

The wreck that creation is watching is broken humanity – the revealing of the sons of God -

Creation is watching God’s plan of redemption as it is being unveiled as individuals come into a right relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

Creation watches as broken people become whole people

Creation watches as guilty people become forgiven people

In verse 20 – I had you make a note of the phrase – (subjected to futility)

Because in the NLT – the phrase is translated as all creation was subjected to God's curse.

Question? Was creation at fault for it being subjected to God's curse? No

We live in a broken world not because this world broke itself.

We live in a broken world because of sin.

That man rebelled against God.

That man decided to walk away from God and that decision dragged all creation with them.

Bringing pain, suffering, death, disease, brokenness

But God.....

Because of His redemption plan –

Even creation holds out hope that the brokenness that it experiences will one day be made whole.

Church – don't miss out what Paul is doing here –



He is writing to the believer who is experiencing suffering and invites us to look outward at the broken world around them and then he invites us to look inside of us.

**22 For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.**

In Matthew 24 – (we also find it cross referenced in Luke 21, Mark 13)

Jesus is sitting at the Mount of Olives with some of His disciples and they ask Him, “Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?”

And Jesus says

- False teachers
- Wars and rumors of wars
- Famines
- Pestilences
- Earthquakes

And Jesus said that these are the beginning of sorrows or the beginning of the labor pains.

That these labor contractions are going to begin to get closer and closer to one another and they are going to become more and more intense.

And the pain and the groaning will continue as creation waits for the promise of full and final restoration and redemption.

So we can identify with creation

Paul is telling us that the groans are temporary – this means that our pain and suffering will come to an end.

There is a purpose for our groans

The groans are the result of sin.

The groans are universal – it is not simply something that happens to you and me – it is something that happens to everybody.

But most importantly, Paul is telling us that we need to grasp that our groans are going to result in our glorification.

**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.**

Creation groans

And Paul reminds us that we also groan.

Just as creation is broken and falling apart as a result of sin –

So are our bodies.

Things begin to thin out

Our knees begin to talk to us as we go up and down the stairs.

We ache all over – so we groan.

Turn with me to 2 Cor 5

**[2Co 5:1-5 NKJV] 1 For we know that if our earthly house, [this] tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. 2 For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven, 3 if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked. 4 For we who are in [this] tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life. 5 Now He who has prepared us for this very thing [is] God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.**

Paul uses the illustration of our bodies being like tents

Our bodies are beset to weaknesses and sicknesses

But praise God that our bodies will be replaced with new bodies – in Jesus Christ.

That one day – all of the wrongs made with our body will be made right.

All the aches and pain will be no more -

And I had you make a note of verse 5 – because this is what Paul is referring to in verse 23 of Romans 8 when he speaks about the firstfruits of the Spirit.

Paul is saying that even in our groaning, as we await the day when we are going to be given our glorified bodies and He saves us from the presence of sin – we have been given a taste, we have been given a downpayment to this thing called eternal life in the Holy Spirit living inside of you and me.

In Numbers 13 – you might remember that -

Moses sends the 12 spies into the land of Canaan.

One from each tribe –

And one of the commands that Moses give to them is that they bring back some of the fruit of the land.

So, after 40 days, the spies return to the wilderness and show up with these ginormous clusters of grapes, figs and pomegranates –

One grape cluster was so big that it had to be carried by two men on a pole – they were not like the grapes from Safeway or Frys.

Why were they commanded to bring back fruit of the land?

To provide a taste of what God had already promised.

As the Children of Israel were being delivered out of Egypt – they had heard of the promises of God – but now, they were given a glimpse of what those promises looked like.

That is the life that the believer lives

We have the firstfruits of the Spirit where we see the promises of God being carried out day by day in our lives.

Deep within the believer, there is this taste of eternity that has left a lingering and a longing for more.

Because the Holy Spirit dwells in us – He has given us a taste of freedom.

He has given us a taste of forgiveness

He has given us a taste of love

He has given us a taste of life

And we want more of it – we don't want it just for right now – we want it forever.

So we groan as we wait.

As we wait for our permanent residence

We groan as we wait for adoption papers to come through.

We look forward to the day, as it was custom in Roman adoption, when the Father sets us before all creation, puts His hands on our shoulders, announces our new name, and declares us eternally His.

**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? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for [it] with perseverance.**

Our full and final redemption is not yet.

We wait for it.

And because the God Who promised us redemption cannot lie, we have hope.

Our hope is an inner confidence that come what may, it's all going to work out.

That God will do what He said He will do

We have hope because we're promised eternal life.

So as tough as things may get in this life, as intense as the disappointments and sorrow may be, one day soon, it will all be behind us and all that will remain is glory!

When that day arrives, hope will be no more because we won't need it.

You see loved ones, hope is the evidence we're not in heaven yet, but that we will be.

**26 Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us**

**with groanings which cannot be uttered. 27 Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit [is], because He makes intercession for the saints according to [the will of] God.**

We all have weaknesses

Paul certainly had his share of weaknesses – we looked at some of those when we looked at ch 7 –

So Paul is speaking here from experience.

But Paul reminds us here that the Holy Spirit helps us in our weaknesses.

We all may have different weaknesses

But we all share in one weakness – and that is what Paul is pointing out here.

We all have a weakness in prayer.

We do not always know what we are to pray for.

We don't always know how to pray.

We don't always know what direction our prayer life should take – that is a weakness.

I have shared with you time and time again the importance of having a prayer journal.

Not only do we see God's faithfulness on our lives

But we also see how so many of things that we told God He ought to do – how they would have made the problems worse.

We don't always know the will of God.

While Scripture provides guidance for most of our prayers, there are some things we just don't know what God's will is.

Sometimes we pray according to what we think God's will should be

Here is an example,

Someone comes to me and shares with me that they just lost their job.

Their boss was a jerk, the location was across town, work was too hard and the pay was not enough.

My prayer is that God would open doors and give my brother or sister a job where the boss is not a jerk, closer to home, a job that is not as hard and that they get paid more than they were making before.

Here is a question though -

What if that isn't God's will???

What if God's will is that the individual be without work for six months – what if God's will is for me to pray for strength for them during the six month period so that they learn to trust in the Lord.



What if God is using the circumstances to stretch and exercise their faith?

This is why we need to be guided by the Holy Spirit

Because He helps us in our prayers

He makes intercession for us.

He bares our burden.

He bares our weakness.

We have the Holy Spirit interceding for us from within us and we have Jesus Christ interceding for us at the right hand of God (which by the way, Paul is going to tell us later on in this chapter)

The Holy Spirit knows how to pray according to God's will because He is God. He knows how to pray "according to the will of God".

"Lord I do not know if this is the decision that is best for me"

The Holy Spirit knows.

"I do not know if this is Your will".

The Holy Spirit knows.

The Holy Spirit makes known to us the mind of the Father and the character of the Son – so that we won't be confused and we won't be deceived.

And loved ones – all of this is the perfect set up for our next study as we continue to pitch our tents on this spiritual mountaintop.

Let's pray...

To Receive Christ do the following:

Admit, "I am a sinner."

Confess and be willing to turn from your sin.

Believe, by faith that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross.

Receive, through prayer, Jesus Christ into your heart and receive eternal life.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins and cleanse me by Your blood. I accept You by faith as my personal Lord and Savior. Give me a thirst for Your Word and Help me to follow You all of my days. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

It's encouraging here in Romans 8:26 that God doesn't confront us or condemn us for being weak. Rather, He sends His Spirit to help us in our weakness.

[Num 6:24-26 NLT] 24 '

May the LORD bless you and protect you.

May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you.

May the LORD show you his favor and give you his peace.'

