

Romans 8:18-30

“Future Glory and Present Help”

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All creation waits (verses 18-19)

- Creation anticipates the day of its redemption
- God will reveal his sons as such; now we appear simply as sons of Adam. By “sons” he means all of God’s children.

**Creation was subjected to futility (frustration)
(verses 20-23)**

- Because of the Fall, all creation groans. Creation's sufferings are both a result of past events and a sign of future deliverance.
- We share in the sufferings of all creation, looking forward to the promised redemption that was displayed in the resurrection.

Our hope is not seen—yet (verses 24-25)

- When you see the ground of your hope, it really isn't hope at all. The faith, trust, and hope we have in Christ isn't visible—but is promised.

All things—by God's sovereign will—work for our good (verses 26-30)

- We can see this in our own lives as well as others. This is confirmed by the stories of God's acts from scripture.
- God is sovereign and loves me beyond my understanding or explanation. He is working for my good.

Kingdom-minded followers of Jesus live in the future hope and present help of their glorious, returning Lord.

Notes on Today's Message

Questions for Personal Study or Group Discussion

Open

- What is the longest you've ever had to stand in line for something? Was it worth the wait?
- Have you ever endured something because there was some sort of payoff at the end of it?

Read

- Romans 8:18-30

Observe

- Paul talks about "our present sufferings." How does this relate to what he says about creation in verses 19-23?
- What would a world like ours be like if there were no death and decay? How is this a picture of the glory to come?
- What frustrates you most about living in a fallen world? How do verses 22-25 help us during times of trial?

Apply

- Paul says that all who are led by the Spirit are sons of God. In what sense does he use the word "sons? What does that mean to you personally?
- What were the "present sufferings" that Paul experienced as he wrote this letter (v.17)? What does he mean by "the glory to come?"

Prayer

Abba Father, you have taken "street urchins" like me and made us your favored children. You have given us the promise of an inheritance rather than eternal separation from your love. I can only stand with my brothers and sisters in wonder and gratefulness for the gift of your Son and the promise of your eternal kingdom. Amen.