

“The View of Suffering”

February 16, 2020

Scripture Text: Romans 8:18-25 NKJV 18 *For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. 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. 22 For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. 23 Not only that, but we also who have the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. 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.*

VERSE 18 *For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.*

Paul states that he has **CONSIDERED** ("**mentally weighed**" the evidence and come to a conclusion that gives him strong assurance and not doubt) He considered that there is far greater glory that awaits us than our temporary suffering. There is a worldly view of suffering that begs to ask the question, "**Why me?...I treat everybody right!**" "**I have a good diet and I exercise!**" It is never looked upon as God loving us but rather being punished for something we may or may not have done. There is no earthly value that man can attach to human suffering. Conversely, Paul has become accustomed to suffering for doing the right things. When the Lord called Saul (Paul) from his fall onto the dirty road near the City of Damascus, suffering would become his mantle. **Acts 9:13-16 NKJV** 13 *Then Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he has done to Your saints in Jerusalem. 14 And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on Your name." 15 But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. 16 For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name's sake."*

When we understand amidst the joy of seeing people come to Christ by the Word of our testimony, there will be suffering but great shall be the reward after we have endured it. **Philippians 1:29 NLT** *For you have been given not only the privilege of trusting in Christ but also the privilege of suffering for Him.* If there is no view of a reward in the middle or end of our suffering, life could be miserable. It is imperative that we keep heaven in view in our suffering for Christ. Jesus has suffered once for the sins of all, let our suffering be for the sake of the gospel and being a **Truth Teller** as oppose to suffering for willfully sinning.

Paul reminds us that there is nothing on this earth in comparison to Glory that shall be revealed, **awaiting us who believe Christ.**

2 Corinthians 4:17-18 NKJV *For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, 18 while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.*

Remember that in your suffering God is being **glorified**, you are being **purified** that the lost may be **Justified**. They will see that you are not terrified and they will desire to have the faith that you have demonstrated in your suffering. **You have a testimony of the Love, mercy and grace of God within you!**

VERSE 19 *For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.*

In the beginning the earth and the heavens above were filled with the majesty, the splendor and the glory of God. When God created the world it was created in perfection and holiness until sin entered the heart of man leaving a curse upon him and the earth. Death came upon every living thing that was placed in the earth and wherever sinful man trod death, decay and corruption follows.

The creation **waits for and hopes for** as if was standing on its toes looking for the **Day of Restoration of all things and the deliverance from the curse of sin.** When man walked upon the earth before sin, every living creature, including man was in total harmony with creation and the creator. The **Day of Deliverance** is the coming of the **Lord Jesus Christ**, who is both the creator and redeemer of all

those who have put their trust in Him. According to **Ecclesiastes 3:11NKJV** *“He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end.”* Eternity is in the heart of every man those who have accepted Christ as their Saviour and those who have rejected Him. **Eternity awaits us all** and whether we spend it with Christ or not is every man’s decision!

VERSE 20 *For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope;*

When Adam willfully sinned the curse of death came upon the world and everything was thrown out of balance. God had placed Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden with the choice of life or death...the blessing or the curse. All because of Adam's sin, no part of nature now exists as God intended it to be and as it was originally created in pristine perfection. Nature was intended to give a perfect picture of the Creator. Even though they chose death, God provided a way for the hope of their future redemption through Christ in **Genesis 3:15** *“And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.”*

It’s interesting that so many environmental agencies are making noble attempts to turn the tide of corruption that has devastated both man and the environment since the fall. **All of the political promising, polarization, lying and deceiving will not change the destiny of the world and every child of God knows it! Only the coming of the Lord can change the tide of a world under condemnation!** And if we can’t rejoice in this hope than we have no hope and we are doomed with an unregenerate world of disbelievers.

VERSE 21 *because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.*

The decay will never cease until the Creator, who subjected it, removes the curse and creates a **New Heaven and New Earth**. In the future Christ will reveal the sons of God in their glorified state and at that time God will remove the curse from His creation. This refers to the time when believers will be **liberated** from the presence of sin,

liberated from their flesh and their humanness. I John 3:2 *Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.* When we are given our glorified bodies and begin to share in His eternal glory, then the world itself will also be set free. We long for and hope for the day that the righteous shall reign with the Lord in a New Heaven and a New Earth. **Hallelujah!**

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

The divine curse extends through the entire created cosmos, not just to the earth. That is, the law of degeneration operates throughout the universe. Since it was man's sin that brought God's curse on the ground-- the very elements of the created earth, the "dust of the ground" ([Genesis 2:7](#)) out of which all things were made by God--it may be that Adam's sin had universal repercussions.

The creation is now travailing like a woman about to deliver a child. Its delivery date into the glorious day to come is tied with the revealing of the children of God in glory. **The whole creation - the entire universe**, that which we can see and that which is not visible to our modern telescopes! **All creation! This is an amazing thought!**

Jews were familiar with God's promise of a redeemed world, a renewed creation. In behalf of the Lord, Isaiah predicted, "*For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; and the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind.*" ([Isa 65:17](#)).

Creation will one day be delivered—and the difference between then and now is the difference between **agony** and **ecstasy**! Think what will happen when nature is free to produce as it was designed to produce, free from pestilence and danger. The Redeemed are going to see that day! **Glory Hallelujah!**

VERSE 23 *Not only that, but we also who have the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.*

What are the First Fruits of the Spirit?

Galatians 5:22-23 NKJV “But the fruit of the Spirit is **Love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control.** Against such there is no law.”

This is how I see it. God is **LOVE – God is SPIRIT:** “*They that worship Him must Worship Him in SPIRIT and in TRUTH,*” (John 4:24 NKJV) **Imagine with me: One Tree** of **LOVE** from which all fruit is produced from **GOD** and from that one tree comes love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Follow me now, **God Is LOVE... God** John 3:16 God so Loved the world... **God gave us His Son... His Son** give us... the **Holy Spirit.** John 15:26 “*But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.*” This in my humble opinion is the **Frist Fruits.** The first fruits are originated in God, in the Son and in the Holy Spirit producing **Love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control!** If we are indwelt by the Holy Spirit ***we groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. Not for the old body of corruption but the new glorified body!***

VERSE 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?***

Outside of Christ there is no hope, whereas salvation brings us a great hope that God will do good to us in the future. Our subjective hope has its objective basis, (***the object of our hope***) in the **Person of the Lord Jesus Christ**, our hope (**1Ti 1:1**). Ultimately our hope (***the assurance of our hope***) is that **Christ will return to take us home**, and (***the aspect of our future hope***) **we will be made like Him.** And so when the Spirit regenerated us in the past by grace through faith, He also placed in our hearts a **Supernatural Hope.** It is a hope that can **waver** and **vacillate**, but it is a hope which is **strengthened** by the **Word of the LORD**, especially those passages that remind us of **His Second Coming.**

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

“When We All Get To Heaven”

Sing the wondrous love of Jesus
Sing His mercy and His grace
In the mansion's bright and blessed
He'll prepare for us a place

When we all get to Heaven
What a day of rejoicing that will be
When we all see Jesus
We'll sing and *shout the victory!*

While we walk the pilgrim pathway
Clouds will over spread the sky
But when traveling days are over
Not a shadow, not a sign

When we all get to Heaven
What a day of rejoicing that will be
When we all see Jesus
We'll sing and *shout the victory!*

Applications:

We live and die to live... to bring Glory to God.

Jesus suffered once to bring glory to all.