

Relax, Paradise Awaits You 2022-03-27

Romans 8:22-23

For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

Football > pillow > watch replay...less anxiety/anger when we know we win in the end.

- Persevere with hope in present suffering by remembering future glory.

Sonship includes sharing in Jesus' suffering:...preparation for sharing Jesus' glory as sons of God. Romans 8:17-18, 2 Corinthians 4:17

- Think biblically about suffering so grow through it without being destroyed by it.
 - Suffering/trials are short/light compared to future glory/heavenly joys.
 - benefits outweigh suffering

Suffering is experienced by of all creation because of man's fall. Romans 8:19-22, Genesis 1:28, 31, 3:17-18

- God cursed creation as part of judgment for sin because of man's caretaker position and authority over creation as God's representatives.
 - Creation from perfect> total destruction.....not chaos>order (evolution).
 - creation's splendor/majesty display splendor/majesty of God, its decay/futility bear witness to man's sin.

Entire universe is waiting eagerly (tiptoes) for deliverance from sin's curse.

- Childbirth: painful in present but with hope of wonderful, blessed outcome.
- verb *wait eagerly* used 7 times in New Testament, each time refers to Jesus' return.
 - "revealing of sons of God when Jesus Christ returns with saints to subdue enemies, establish throne, redeem/perfected men rule with Jesus Christ over God's creation.
 - Creation liberated from imperfection/decay and renewed to perfection and original purpose.
 - creation destroyed with fall of man and restored with exaltation of man.

Until that time, Christians groan with all creation. Romans 8:23, 15-16, 2 Corinthians 5:2, 5, 1 Peter 1:4

- Groaning is an inward response to suffering from corrupt/futility in us and creation.
 - what presently are and what shall be intensifies frustration/groan.

now enjoy privileges of being adopted (salvation & new nature) but not presently see/receive all benefit, blessing of full inheritance 1 John 3:2, 2 Peter 3:13

- Groan of anticipation for unfulfilled reality in response to pain/suffering.
 - Holy Spirit's firstfruits of harvest- guarantee more coming: Ephesians 1:13-14, 2 Corinthians 1:22

- redeem body free from sin/death. full adoption, reign with Jesus Christ over all renewed creation.
- Holy Spirit enables perseverance in suffering, confirms adoption, leads/holds/secures us carries us to our future glory.
 - Glory is not simply revealed to you, but upon/in you. share in Jesus Christ's glory.

Suffering/groaning is a means to an end. Pain of living in cursed world pushes us towards Jesus Christ.

- persevere by putting hope heavenward toward what is not YET seen than in broken, decaying, futile present.....Relax, paradise awaits you!
 - Hope is the main point of Romans 8:18-25.....Romans 8:23-25, 2 Corinthians 4:18, Revelation 21:1-5

Persevere with hope in present suffering by remembering future glory.

- not "hope it will rain" but absolutely certain WILL receive all God promised.
 - Hope based in who God is, not our performance.