

ROMANS 8

18. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

The hidden glory of the suffering saints

1. *The sufferings of this present time*

- *Life is hard: From minor annoyancesto crushing tragedies*
- *We suffer in body and soul; physical, emotional, and combinations of both*
- *Christ is a Man of Sorrows, and acquainted with grief. Jesus wept.*
- *There is a time-boundary for these sufferings: “this present time”*

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The hidden glory of the suffering saints

1. *The sufferings of this present time*
2. *The glory that shall be revealed to us*
 - *Eis (to, into, in) us*
 - *Psalm 73:21-26 ~he will receive me into glory*
 - *This glory is hidden now 1 Peter 5:1, 1 Corinthians 2:9-16 (Isaiah 64:1-4)*
“those tongues of fire on the heads of the disciples at Pentecost- - did they go out? No, they went in!” – Arlan Wolf
 - *Mark 7:24 But like Jesus in the house, ‘he could not be hidden’*

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The hidden glory of the suffering saints

1. The sufferings of this present time
2. The glory that shall be revealed to us
3. Not worth comparing! "present distress is temporary and negligible" j b philips
 - Isaiah 40: 13-18 !
 - Psalm 89:5-8
 - 2 Corinthians 4:17-18 that weight of glory

18. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

“It may be possible for each to think too much of his own potential glory hereafter; it is hardly possible for him to think too often or too deeply about that of his neighbour. The load, or weight, or burden of my neighbour’s glory should be laid daily on my back, a load so heavy that only humility can carry it, and the backs of the proud will be broken. It is a serious thing to live in a society of possible gods and goddesses, to remember that the dullest and most uninteresting person you talk to may one day be a creature which, if you saw it now, you would be strongly tempted to worship, or else a horror and a corruption such as you now meet, if at all, only in a nightmare.

*All day long we are, in some degree, helping each other to one or other of these destinations.....**There are no ordinary people.** You have never talked to a mere mortal. Nations, cultures, arts, civilization – these are mortal, and their life is to ours as the life of a gnat. **But it is immortals whom we joke with, work with, marry, snub, and exploit – immortal horrors or everlasting splendours... ..** Next to the Blessed Sacrament itself, your neighbour is the holiest object presented to your senses. If he is your Christian neighbour he is holy in almost the same way, for in him also Christ vere latitat – the glorifier and the glorified, Glory Himself, is truly hidden.”*

C.S. Lewis, *The Weight of Glory* 1941

¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing 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 will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God ²² For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.

Comfort 1: The painful groans of the corrupted universe

- **Your suffering is cosmically, universally significant. For: the universe is ‘on its tiptoes’ waiting for the sons of God to be revealed.**

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Side note, regarding The Personification of Creation

- **We do it:** “Father time, Old man winter, Mother nature, Jack frost, etc...”
- **God does this too:**
 - **Gen 3:17** ... Cursed is the ground because of you... thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you
 - **Gen 4:11** The ground has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand
 - **Leviticus 18:24-25** the land vomited out the sinful people
 - **Isaiah 24:1-7** the earth lies defiled under its inhabitants...
 - **Hosea 4:1-3**... therefore the land mourns
 - **Jeremiah 12:1-4**... the land mourns, the grass withers for the evil of those who dwell in it
 - **Luke 19:40** “I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out”
 - **Psalms 96:10-13** let the earth rejoice, the field exult, the trees sing
 - **Psalms 98:7-9** Let the sea roar... Let the rivers clap their hands, the hills sing

(Since the Enlightenment, and the era of Scientific Discovery, we may be looking at things more materialistically/mechanically than is actually realistic.)

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 - 1 John 3:1-3 ! Awesome hope; even the universe is eager to see this.
- **The Creation was subjected to futility/vanity/worthlessness**
 - (the Fall)
 - Ecclesiastes 1:1-9 do you feel it in the air?
“Nature, red in tooth and claw” Tennyson

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- **Labor pangs!** The cosmic suffering is not the throes of death but the pangs of birth. A better day’s a’comin’.
 - **Isaiah 11:1-9**
 - **Isaiah 65:17-25**
 - **Revelation 21:1-5**
 - **1 Corinthians 15: 20-28**
 - **Matthew 19:28** Regeneration
 - **Acts 3:21** Restoration/restitution of all things
 - **Colossians 1: 19-20** Reconciliation

The sufferings of this present time

subjected to futility

the bondage of corruption

EYE

HATH

NOT

SEEN

NEITHER

EAR

HEARD



²³And 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. ²⁴For in this hope
we were saved. Now hope that is
seen is not hope. For who hopes
for what he sees? ²⁵But if we hope
for what we do not see, we wait for
it with patience.

Comfort 2: A Solid Hope in the midst of groans:

- We have the indwelling Spirit of God
- We are not stoics. We are not stones. We groan
- Our Adoption and Redemption:
 - Already (we were saved; we have the 1stfruits)
 - But not yet (waiting on our bodies)
- Solid Hope: wholistic redemption is coming!
- Therefore:
 - Wait eagerly
 - Wait patiently ~endurance, steadfastness
- “If we hope”... *Do you have this hope?*

²⁶Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

Comfort 3: Our ignorant groans are assisted by the Holy Spirit Himself.

- **Our weakness:**
 - groaning in this body
 - 2 Corinthians 5:1-5
 - Don't know how to pray properly

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Comfort 3: Our ignorant groans are assisted by the Holy Spirit Himself.

- **Our weakness:**
- **His strength:**
 - He helps us - - (remember, “I will send a Helper”)
 - Beside us... and yet... instead of us!
 - He intercedes for us
 - With (our) wordless groans
 - With His comprehensive knowledge of God’s will!
 - 1 Corinthians 2:10-11
 - “God fixes our prayers on the way up”