



Earnest Expectation For The Awaiting Glory

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“For I reckon 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 creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. 20 For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, 21 Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. 23 And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body. 24 For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? 25 But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it” (Romans 8:18-25).

Introduction

Life without hope can be a painfully terrible experience. Romans 8:18–25 stands as one of the most hope-filled passages in all of Scripture, written by the Apostle Paul to encourage believers facing real hardship and uncertainty. In these verses, Paul lifts our perspective beyond the struggles of the present life and directs our attention to the certain glory that awaits all who are in Christ. He reminds us that suffering is neither meaningless nor permanent, but part of a larger divine purpose that includes not only our own redemption but the restoration of all creation. With vivid language of groaning, waiting, and hope, this passage calls us to endure with patience and confidence, knowing that God’s promises are sure and that a glorious future is being prepared for His people.

We will consider this study under the following sub-headings:


- 1) Present Suffering Compared to Future Glory
- 2) Creation Itself Waits in Expectation
- 3) The Groaning of Creation and Believers
- 4) Salvation Anchored in Hope
- 5) The Call to Patient Endurance

1. Present Suffering Compared to Future Glory

The Apostle Paul begins with a powerful contrast between present suffering versus future glory by stating - “For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.” (Romans 8:18)

Paul does not deny suffering. He acknowledges it plainly. Yet he places it on a scale—and declares it weightless compared to the glory that God has prepared for believers. This echoes 2 Corinthians 4:17: “For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.”

As an illustration, consider a woman in labour. The pain is intense, real, and unavoidable. Yet when the child is born, the suffering is overshadowed by joy. Jesus Himself said: “A woman



when she is in travail hath sorrow, because her hour is come: but as soon as she is delivered of the child, she remembereth no more the anguish, for joy that a man is born into the world” (John 16:21). So it is with the believer: suffering is real, but it is temporary and purposeful.

2. Creation Itself Waits in Expectation

Paul widens the perspective beyond humanity by stating: “For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God” (Romans 8:19). Creation is portrayed as eagerly waiting—stretching forward, as it were—for redemption. Why? Because - “For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope” (Romans 8:20).

When sin entered through Adam, creation itself was affected as recorded in Genesis 3:17: “Cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life.”

Yet even in judgement, God embedded hope. Creation will not remain broken forever as confirmed in Romans 8:21 - “Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.”

As illustration, a broken world filled with earthquakes, decay, disease—is like a building under renovation. The noise and disruption are not signs of abandonment, but of the restoration that is in progress.

3. The Groaning of Creation and Believers

Paul describes a universal groaning: “For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.” (Romans 8:22)

And not just creation. The next verse continues with the statement—“And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body” (Romans 8:23). This groaning is not despair—it is longing because believers possess “the firstfruits of the Spirit” (Romans 8:23). This means we have a foretaste of what is to come, yet we still await fullness - “waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.” (Romans 8:23)


This aligns with 1 John 3:2 - “Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.”

For example, Job, in the midst of suffering, declared: “For I know that my redeemer liveth, And that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth. And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God” (Job 19:25-26). This confirms that even in pain, there is expectation of redemption.

4. Salvation Anchored in Hope

Paul explains the nature of our salvation: “For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope” (Romans 8:24).

Christian hope is not wishful thinking—it is confident expectation based on God’s promises. Hebrews 11:1 reminds us that “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen”. If we could already see it, it would no longer require hope.



5. The Call to Patient Endurance

In view of the foregoing, Paul finally calls for perseverance - “But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.” (Romans 8:25)

Patience is not passive—it is active endurance rooted in trust. Hebrews 12:1 encourages us - “Let us run with patience the race that is set before us”. And again, James 5:7 commands “Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord.”

As an illustration, a farmer plants seed and waits. He cannot rush the harvest, but he trusts the process. James continues: “Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it.” (James 5:7)

In conclusion believers are called to Live in Hope for the Glory. Romans 8:18–25 calls us to lift our eyes beyond present circumstances because:

- Our suffering is temporary.
- Our glory is certain.
- Creation itself is moving towards restoration.
- Our hope is secure.
- Our calling is to endure with patience.

Let us therefore be encouraged by this scripture: “Wherefore comfort one another with these words” (1 Thessalonians 4:18); And hold fast to the promise in 1 Corinthians 2:9 that “Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.”

Final Encouragement:

No matter the weight of present trials, the glory ahead is immeasurable. Stay faithful, remain hopeful, and press on—because the best is yet to come.