

Introduction:

- In vss 1-17 Paul is focused on the Spirit and the life that the believer has in Christ through the Spirit.
- He begins now to answer the question: How does the Christian maintain hope in the midst of suffering in this life. How does justification, glory, and suffering all work together. Why even include it here? The short answer is this: Nothing compares to the glory of God, therefore, you have no logical reason to quit on Him. This section is to give us hope in much greater detail than we received in 5:1-5
- His answer is that whatever the Christian begins to endure in this life will not compare to the glory of the life to come. (If we did not know the man who was speaking, the Apostle Paul, we could write that little phrase off as politics. But it comes from a man willing to endure great suffering for the sake of the Gospel.)

I. Heirs of Glory

- A. *"And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory. But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering."* (Romans 8:17, NLT)
1. Heirs of glory - persons who have been given the allotted portion. Inheritance comes with sonship.
 2. Since we are His children...we are his heirs!
- B. The letter to Romans is about our justification in Christ by faith! That is the Gospel!
1. To be justified is receive the God's glory. The Gospel is God's glory.
 2. To receive God's glory we must share in Christ's suffering.
 3. vs 18. To share in His suffering is nothing in comparison to sharing in His glory.
 4. John Piper two quotes.
 - a) "What is the gospel? It is the gospel of the glory of Christ. Whatever else he did, he did it to enable us to spend eternity beholding with ever increasing joy his glory. That is why he died. If we don't get to that, we don't get to the end of the gospel."
 - b) "Treasuring Christ is a way of showing how valuable he is because you have made him so valuable. The Holy Spirit has opened your eyes to see he is valuable. And then you put it beside the call to suffer and you see the call to suffer is the very place in life where that testimony will have most credibility and will have most power in shining Christ forth."
 - c) IE. Guatemala, procession in Antigua. Men in a parade...priest like fellows hit themselves with boards and whips (to participate in the suffering of Christ.) That is crazy. The Gospel supplies healing so I am contending, believing for that! But in the mean time I am going to let Jesus shine!
 - d) We can't help but groan for the manifestation of the Kingdom as we pass through this life. I have sat through to many divorcees, watched to many people die

suffering with cancers as family looked on. Been to too many funerals. There are to many awful manifestations of evil in this life to not groan. Wars, crime, murders, suicides. If we share in the glory then we must share in the suffering, knowing that any pain we encounter is nothing compared to the glory to come. Therefore, do not quit!

II. Glory Revealed To Us Later vs 18

- A. "*Glory revealed to us later*" if we suffer well now.
- B. Glory is what makes God impressive! doxa - the weightiness of God. To give God glory is not something we impart to Him, it is to give honor to Him.

III. The Groanings

- A. Groaning - *stenozo* - *groans*. In the NT this *stenozo* comes from oppression which causes suffering and results in a groaning to be free. TDNT. Only when we put on our heavenly body will this pass. We see three 'groanings' in this section.
- B. Creation groans vs 22
 - 1. Creation is awaiting for the day that God reveals the sons of God. Why?
 - 2. All creation was subjected to Gods curse against its will. vs 20 Creation did not want be a part of the curse. What did it do?
 - 3. Creation looks forward to the day that it will be free from death and decay!!!
 - 4. Therefore vs 22 all of creation is groaning...like pain in childbirth. It wants freedom. Just like we want freedom! Paul's next point.
- C. Saints groans 23
 - 1. We believers groan also...even though we have the Holy Spirit as a foretaste!
 - 2. We long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering. We too hope for the day we get full rights as sons and new bodies.
 - 3. If we look forward to something we don't have we must exercise patience.
- D. Holy Spirit groans vs 26
 - 1. Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings. "*And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words.*" (Romans 8:26, NLT)
 - a) just as the Spirit bears witness to our spirit that we are sons of God.
 - b) So the Spirit also intercedes on our behalf in our weakness speaks up for us with Groans.
 - 2. As Charismatics we believe this action to be tongues.
 - a) Paul himself seems to keep this 'low key' as he writes.
 - b) The word 'cannot express' is a greek expression meaning silent...in expressible/ without words/inarticulate. There has to be sound because of the groaning. It would be the kind of prayer that 'tongue talking' would use in the church assembly while not being 'rude.' 1 Cor 14:14-15.

- c) There is no other phenomena in the church in Paul that remotely is like what he is describing other than praying in tongues.

IV. Glory Given vs 30

- A. Glory is to be given... to us who are in right standing with God.
- B. This being the case, it can only stand that God works all things together for good of those who love Him and are called according to His purpose for them.
- C. Therefore, know that we have been made right with God though faith, there is nothing in this life that compares to the glory of God given to us! Sin? No. Law? No. Suffering? No.
 - 1. Creation wants us to get there more than we do... it sounds like.
 - 2. The Holy Spirit is on our side to make sure we get there.
 - 3. We need to long for His appearing as well that all manner of sin and decay are done away with.

Conclusion:

- We must weigh suffering in the balance with glory. When we do suffering is flung into the air with a jolt at the comparison. All suffering is done with Christ.

I. What Shall We Say?

- A. Again we read these common words of Paul that he uses to advance his argument. This actual leads to another question... "What shall we say in view these things?"
 - 1. Here is what we should say, "If God be for us who can ever be against us?" The whole point is God is for no matter what you may be going through. Nothing will change the fact that you are justified, sanctified and made right with God by faith.
 - 2. Paul is not saying that we will never have resistance. In fact he has had more resistance than all of us. He is saying that nothing can override the love of God towards in what He has accomplished in Christ! No one can get in the way of what God is for.
 - 3. vs 32, in fact God is so for us that He gave us His one and only Son! If He is willing to do this is there any reason to believe that
- B. Can anyone ever separate us from Christ?
 - 1. Does it mean we are not loved if we have trouble?
 - 2. Not all! Paul actually looks at his own life vs 36. and 37 repeats the answer, "No, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ!" Despite all the suffering, the victory is ours!
- C. Pauls conviction!
 - 1. Nothing can separate us from the love of God!
 - 2. Paul puts things in pairs except for powers...which could be connected to rulers.
 - 3. He closes with the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus.