

**"How the Lord Knows Suffering in the Life of the Believer - Part 2"**

**Review: "How the Lord Knows Suffering in the Life of the Believer"**

- ***Our Privilege As Sons Is to Suffer and to be Glorified Together With Christ***
- ***But Our Sufferings Today Are Nothing Compared with the Coming Glory!***

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***Romans 8:18-21***

**18** 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.

- ***This is the teaching now that underscores verses 15-17: To summarize, we now learn the facts presented and the reckoning as our example through Paul (as before his testimony was also so important, wasn't it).***
- ***In one sentence he presents the facts as he knows them: "the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us". And don't forget, this is his testimony — is it ours? And then he explains this further in verses 19-21:***
  - ***The whole creation and we ourselves surely "wait" earnestly and expectantly "...for the manifestation of the sons of God": such a hopeful expectation indeed is ours — if we will receive it and reckon on it! The Greek word translated "earnest expectation" here (and also in the other place it is found, means to "stretch out the neck in anticipation"!***

***Philippians 1:19-21***

**19** For I know that this shall turn to my salvation through your prayer, and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,

20 According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but *that* with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether *it be* by life, or by death.

21 For to me to live *is* Christ, and to die *is* gain.

- *It was Paul's "earnest expectation", with outstretched neck in anticipation, that made the difference for him and that is his testimony there in the Philippian letter and also here in the Romans. Is it ours?*
- *And now he goes even deeper in his explanation (note the word "for"). First the statement of fact and then the details needed for our understanding:* "For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope ...". *First the statement of hope, if we are willing to by faith receive it (so we therefore can reckon upon it):*
  - *For in spite of Adam's Fall and its consequences for him, Sara, and their offspring, and the entire creation as well that has been tainted with its many effects, there is nevertheless hope he writes here. Any why?*
  - "... Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.": *A glorious future indeed awaits the creation and we ourselves who are not only a part of that but the central focus of the work of God under grace. Praise God for such a positive and encouraging hope! But what does verse 20 say?*
    - "For the creation was made subject to vanity": *Vanity means perishable or subject to decay, it is the opposite of salvation in the Greek language.*
    - "... not willingly": *Or, through no personal choice or of its own will? Here is referring it seems to Adam and all others of humankind.*
    - "... but by reason of the creator himself...": *This is perhaps the best translation according to the context here and in the next verses. The creator*

***rules the creation. He “owns” it as it were. And he allowed Adam’s sin and brought the consequences as he willed. Can we stand in judgment of that? God forbid.***

- ***“... because ...”: Here we see the culmination of it all and therefore the implied purpose and final end behind the Lord’s judgment and curse upon Adam and the creation itself. The mark of hope for his final resolution is there and the word of hope opens our hearts and minds to it. Amen.***
- ***THIS IS INDEED THE HOPE AGAINST HOPE, THE HOPE IN THE UNSEEN, OUR ULTIMATE DELIVERANCE INTO THE GLORIOUS LIBERTY OF THE CHILDREN OF GOD. AMEN. ENCOURAGING, ANYONE?***

**Our Outline Today: “How the Lord Knows Suffering in the Life of the Believer - Part 2”**

- **We Hope For That We See Not And With Patience Wait For It**
- **We Pray Not As We Ought But the Spirit Itself Maketh Intercession For Us**
- **We Know That All Things Work Together For Good to Them That Love God**

**I. We Hope For That We See Not And With Patience Wait For It:**

***[READ ] Romans 8:22-25***

***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.***

- ***“For we know ...”: Here, at the beginning of this section, the apostle again mentions the knowledge he has and that he is instructing the Romans and all of us about. He has already referred to it in concrete and revealing words in the last verses we summarized a moment ago and the teaching there (and here in our scripture for today) is something quite remarkable and memorable indeed : “... 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.” ***The entire creation and we also ourselves are a part of the ultimate plan of Almighty God, even with the curse on the creation upon us who are also suffering the consequence of Adam’s sin, even though we are justified and therefore free from the consequence of Adam’s sin imputed to us. In addition, we are free from the power of indwelling sin — if we would receive by faith and reckon upon the truths of grace.***

***He further boldly and unashamedly writes in verses 18-21 that all of this suffering in the creation and in us is for a purpose grand indeed. For, he writes, that this plan which the Lord God, the creator and the redeemer, knows so well and that he himself, Paul, has been taught, that none of it compares with the glory that shall be revealed “in us”, verse 18, and then further, verse 21, the entire creation “earnestly awaits” ours and its glorification too! Now that is a marvelous truth to know and count upon.***

***The apostle now continues in that vein with these words in verses 22 - 25:***

- “... the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also ...”: ***Here he refers back to the earlier verses using similar language as before but then adds an important fact about ourselves that is so important:***
- “... which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body”: ***This is prophetic indeed and could never be known except as the Lord ordained through Paul. For we have “the first fruits of the Spirit” and therefore different fundamentally from the the rest of the creation. He will go on to explain that in the next section. But for now he says that due to the indwelling Spirit of God, we all have hope. Praise God,***
- “... 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?”: ***These words point to another truth that Paul assumes the Roman believers know something about, or he is teaching here even about that spirit reality. Hope assumes that there is much we must take by faith because we cannot see or know through other means (by experience, for example) but only through revelation what it is we are hoping for, in this case redemption waiting patiently with outstretched necks as it were: “... But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience***

wait for it.”: ***And as we shall now see, the indwelling Spirit makes all the difference for us (but not for the unsaved, since they do not possess the Spirit at all).***

## **II. We Pray Not As We Ought But the Spirit Itself Maketh Intercession For Us:**

***[READ ] Romans 8:26-27***

**26** Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

**27** And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what *is* the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to *the will of* God.

- “... Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought ...”: ***With this burden we all bear in this struggle, we are helped by the Spirit! For we do not even know how to cry out to the Lord in prayer and supplication. We do not know what words to use even. This is not it seems a matter of practice or eloquence or anything like that though. It is rather, he writes here in verse 26, a matter of knowledge. And even Paul with his ongoing testimony concerning his own knowledge, even he does not know “what or how” to pray. But nevertheless he says here that we need to do it, for we “ought to” pray, but the Spirit “intercedes for us”, praise God.***
- “... but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered ...”: ***He stands in the way, as it were, and prays for us. And his words “cannot be uttered” by man. But why not? Because, as he writes next:***
- “... And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.”: ***But God who searches the hearts knows what the Spirit within our hearts is saying in “unutterable words” because the Spirit is calling out to the Lord from within us “according to the will of God”. Now that is a revelation indeed. What does it mean?***
- ***Well, after considering this for about half a century I have come to the conclusion that what he is saying here is simply what he then summarizes in these following words:***

## **III. We Know That All Things Work Together For Good to Them That Love God:**

**[READ ] Romans 8:28-30**

**28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.**

**29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate *to be* conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.**

**30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.**

- “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”: ***So, he reveals, that all of these trials and all of this suffering is according to his grand plan that will culminate in our glorification at the adoption or son-placing, the day of our resurrection or transformation at the Rapture into heaven’s glory. Amen and amen. Is this encouraging? Any testimonies?***

**“It Will Be Worth It All” (by Esther Kerr Rusthoi, 1941)**

1. Sometimes the day seems long,  
Our trials hard to bear.  
We’re tempted to complain,  
to murmur and despair.  
But Christ will soon appear  
to catch his bride away!  
All tears forever over  
in God’s eternal day!

**CHORUS:**

It will be worth it all  
when we see Jesus!  
Life’s trials will seem so small  
when we see Christ.  
One glimpse of his dear face,  
all sorrow will erase.  
So, bravely run the race  
till we see Christ.

2. At times the sky seems dark,  
with not a ray of light;  
We’re tossed and driven on,  
no human help in sight.  
But there is One in heaven,

Who knows our deepest care;  
Let Jesus solve your problems,  
just go to him in prayer.

3. Life's day will soon be o're,  
all storms forever past;  
We'll cross the great divide  
to Glory, safe at last!  
We'll share the joys of heaven:  
a harp, a home, a crown;  
The tempter will be banished,  
We'll lay our burdens down.

***Many may think this well known hymn of the faith is about the Second Coming of Christ to the earth, but we know it is pointing forward to the Rapture of Christ's Body Church, praise God. And that could be today while the other cannot for at least 7 years still remain until that event can occur according to much prophecy.***

***But the apostle goes on further to explain the basis for his great hope, and it is based on the knowledge of God regarding his intentions and destination for us all! It is all about how God sees us and what his work is to accomplish his great plan in our glorification, but also, his work now in the creation and in us. This is remarkable teaching indeed, is it not? If we with our limitations can begin to grasp it by faith believing what the apostle has written. For it is about God's knowledge of. His plan and how even now the Spirit of God dwelling within us is operating in harmony with that plan:***

- ***"For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.": His work is ongoing in us today. And the indwelling Spirit of God, in communion with both us and the Father God, ministers both to us and to Almighty God as he cries out from within us in words unspeakable — but full of glory. I am reminded of these words Paul also wrote about the same time perhaps as the Romans, but here to the Corinthian believers:***

***[READ ] 2 Corinthians 3:17-18***

***17 Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.***

***18 But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.***

- ***Take note: “are [being] changed” or “transformed” is in the present tense here! It is his ongoing work as he works all for our good and glory, both ours and his.***
- ***We are on the path of his choosing indeed but there are many obstacles on this road to glory and as that wonderful hymn by Steve Green says so well, often from our perspective at least, “on the anvil of his will”:***

**“The Refiner’s Fire”, by Steve Green**

**[Verse 1]**

There burns a fire with sacred heat  
 White hot with holy flame  
 And all who dare pass through its blaze  
 Will not emerge the same  
 Some as bronze, and some as silver  
 Some as gold, then with great skill  
**All are hammered by their sufferings**  
**On the anvil of His will**

**[Chorus]**

The Refiner's fire  
 Has now become my sole desire  
 Purged and cleansed and purified  
 That the Lord be glorified  
 He is consuming my soul  
 Refining me, making me whole  
 No matter what I may lose  
 I choose the Refiner's fire

**[Verse 2]**

I'm learning now to trust His touch  
 To crave the fire's embrace  
 For though my past with sin was etched  
 His mercies did erase  
 Each time His purging cleanses deeper  
 I'm not sure that I'll survive  
 Yet the strength in growing weaker  
 Keeps my hungry soul alive

**[Chorus]**

***“The Refiner's fire***  
***Has now become my sole desire***



*Purged and cleansed and purified  
That the Lord be glorified  
He is consuming my soul  
Refining me, making me whole  
No matter what I may lose  
I choose the Refiner's fire"*

- ***Back to verses 28-30 in chapter 8: Verse 30 summarizes 28-29 —***  
"Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified." ***He sees it all as accomplished already, for the plan and his work is sure indeed. But this is Paul's view in conformity to the Lord God's, seeing the end from the beginning and all steps in between as well. The point here is that the Lord God has marked out the boundaries !)*** of our lives — and our sufferings and that this is all in the context of the fundamental and always supreme will of God as this verse makes very clear: "yes, all, from beginning to end, is part of God plan for his saints, from the calling to the justification to the glorification, and in between is the life with all of its joys and burdens and sufferings, all these are marked out with limits on the latter, in this gracious and glorious plan. We are being conformed and transformed by it all, indeed. The predestination is not about the persons but the work of the Lord in us, fo

***Romans 12:2 is a relevant verse as well also using the same Greek word for changed or transformed as in 2 Cor. 3:18.***

- ***Let's conclude. No detail has escaped the Father, the Son, or the Spirit as they each work in and around us to fulfill the plan of grace and truth. Praise God. We are in good hands indeed. We may therefore rejoice always even in our trials, even in our sufferings. May it be for us as the chorus of that hymn so well expresses it:***

***"The Refiner's fire  
Has now become my sole desire  
Purged and cleansed and purified  
That the Lord be glorified  
He is consuming my soul  
Refining me, making me whole  
No matter what I may lose  
I choose the Refiner's fire". By Steve Green, "The Refiner's Fire"***

***[READ ] 2 Corinthians 4:13-18***

13 We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak;

14 Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present *us* with you.

15 For all things *are* for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God.

16 For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward *man* is renewed day by day.

17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory;

18 While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen *are* temporal; but the things which are not seen *are* eternal.

### **Conclusions & Exhortations:**

#### **Our Outline Today Was This: "How the Lord Knows Suffering in the Life of the Believer - Part 2"**

- **We Hope For That We See Not And With Patience Wait For It**
- **We Pray Not As We Ought But the Spirit Itself Maketh Intercession For Us**
- **We Know That All Things Work Together For Good to Them That Love God**
- ***I have been encouraged by Paul's teaching here today and I sincerely hope you have been too! Even our sufferings are part of his eternal plan of glory, for us and for the creation in general.***
- ***Our Lord God has a purpose therefore for everything, even our suffering. We are in the very center of his work. We have every reason therefore to rejoice. And again I say, rejoice.***

#### **2 Corinthians 12:5-10**

2 I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven.

3 And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;)

4 How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.

5 Of such an one will I glory: yet of myself I will not glory, but in mine infirmities.

6 For though I would desire to glory, I shall not be a fool; for I will say the truth: but now I forbear, lest any man should think of me above that which he seeth me to be, or that he heareth of me.

7 And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.

8 For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me.

9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

**Next Time:**

***Romans 8:31-39***

31 What shall we then say to these things? If God *be* for us, who *can be* against us?

32 He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

33 Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? *It is* God that justifieth.

34 Who *is* he that condemneth? *It is* Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.