

Romans

(28) Rightly understanding our present sufferings

Waiting for our adoption, the redemption of our bodies...8:18-25

What is the sense of our 'share in His sufferings' ? vs.17

It's the language of 'since we do share...'. True believers do share His sufferings.

And how does Paul teach us to put these sufferings in proper perspective? vs.18

These 'present' sufferings are unworthy to be compared with the glory coming for us!

What does Paul tell the church at Corinth about this? II Cor.4:16-17

Our outer man is decaying, but don't focus on that. Look on the eternal.

Why are these sufferings so *important* to a believer? II Cor.12:9-10

These weaknesses, insults, distresses, persecutions..., perfect His power in us (inner man).

In addition to our own longing for our 'final' redemption, what else is happening? vs.19

The whole creation eagerly waits for our glorification. Includes the holy angels.

And what is the hope for this creation? vs.20-21

Liberation from the bondage to decay. No more curse. No more killing. Freedom...

How has creation been impacted by Adam's sin? vs.22

Everything groans (together), like the pains of childbirth. The birth of redeemed believers!

In addition to 'all creation' what else groans? vs.23

We, having the Holy Spirit, groan (sigh inaudibly) while waiting for our bodily redemption

And what is the truth behind all of this? vs.24-25

We were saved having this (unseen) hope. Don't have it yet, and we wait patiently.

The beautiful and intimate love of the Spirit...8:26-27

What does 'in the same way', vs.26, point us to? vs.23

It seems to be linking our groans (vs.23) and the Holy Spirit's groans (vs.26).

What is the meaning of 'our weakness'? vs.26

Gr. astheneia, feebleness (of mind or body), frailty, infirmity, sickness, weakness.

What is the exact description of these groanings of the Spirit? vs.26

They are intercessory, by the Spirit (not us), inaudible sighs that can NOT be uttered.

And why do we need this intercessory prayer by the Spirit? vs.26

To help us in our weakness, which is so inclusive we don't even know how to pray.

And as the Father searches our hearts, what happens? vs.27 I Cor.2:11

He knows the mind of the Spirit and the Spirit intercedes for us with God's will.

So why does the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man accomplish much?

All true believers are helped by the Holy Spirit. Then our prayers are according to His will