

Groaning and Glory

Romans 8:17-27

Bulletin Notes

We are destined for glory!

In the meantime...

the world groans

believers in Jesus groan

the Spirit within us groans

Life is painful.

God is present.

Looking Back

Samuel Beckett once said, "We live on earth, and there is no cure for that." No matter what we do, we can't escape the brokenness and pain of life. If you look at non-believers and then look at believers in Jesus, you see no difference when it comes to degrees of suffering. In fact, at times, it seems worse for those who follow Jesus. So, how does our faith help us when it comes to suffering? This passage helps remind us of what's true.

Thinking It Through (agree/disagree/consider/contemplate)

"Life is pain, Highness. Anyone who says differently is selling something." Wesley, Princess Bride

"My ankles creak, my knees crack, my ears ring, and my stomach gurgles. I'm not getting older, I'm getting noisier." Bob Hope

"What kind of sense does it make to worship a God who, instead of rescuing us out of trouble, rescues us by entering into the trouble with us? A God who, instead of helping us to avoid pain, heals us from our pain by entering the depths of our pain with us? All of us know pain and grief and disappointment in our lives. Our human wisdom wants a God who will heal us and make us feel better. The foolishness of the cross is a God who enters into our pain and bears our pain with us." Will Willimon

*Heaven knows, Heaven knows
I tried to find a cure for the pain*

*Oh my Lord, to suffer like you do
It would be a lie to run away*

Jon Foreman

Working It Out

1. Read Romans 8:17-27. What is one thing in this whole passage that jumps out to you?

Summarize these verses in your own words. What's it about?

2. What do you think Paul's audience felt when they read these words?
 3. What perspective is Paul giving them on suffering in this life, and how does that perspective help them (and us) when we suffer?
 4. Life is painful. God is present. Why is it important to hold onto both of these statements as followers of Jesus?
 5. What would it look like for you to struggle well right now in an area that is difficult?
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