

Sermon Handout Romans 8:18-26

Romans 8:17 tells us we are to see our suffering in this life through the lens of being God's _____. We are identified with Christ in His suffering but also in His glory.

_____ has a way of revealing what our hearts treasure and trust in the most in a way that few other things in life do.

Our present _____ is to be contrasted with the glory that is ours to come in Christ. It's already purchased for us through Christ's work for us. This means our present suffering can be mingled with hope.

Chapter 8 verses 19-22 tell us that Adam's _____ sin against God was so severe in scope it had a cosmic effect to it. The ground was cursed (Genesis 3). Even creation itself groans because it has been marred until Christ returns and brings restoration. Its redemption is tied to ours.

As God's children we are promised our suffering will never be wasted. It will be redeemed.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 tells us our present afflictions are _____ for us an eternal weight of glory.

Scripture says as believers look to Christ in our suffering we can experience more of Him (Philippians 3:8). Christ is to be our ultimate treasure even in and especially in suffering. It can conform us into His image. It can also reveal if we have been looking to something else as our treasure (idols).

The great promise we see in scripture is that although creation groans a death groan because of sin, and we as God's children do too, we are comforted to know that God groans in us and for us. The Holy Spirit groans within us and for us when we don't know how to pray in our pain (Romans 8:26). Our heavenly Father hears our groanings and cries.

But the greatest death groan of all was one that the Christian will NEVER groan. The groan of condemnation and separation from God because of sin. This is because Christ cried out this death groan on the cross instead of us, "*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*". This gives us great hope in our present suffering. We suffer in the present time, but future glory is ours in Christ.