

Romans



Verses to remember from our study of Romans-

- ✦ **Romans 1:16** for I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.
- ✦ **Romans 3:23-24** for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus
- ✦ **Romans 5:6-8** for while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
- ✦ **Romans 6:23** for the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- ✦ **Romans 8:5** for those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.

Today's verses-

Romans 8:18-25 ESV

¹⁸For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. ²³And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Words to understand

- **Glory**- It referred to the splendor and power of the returning glorified exalted Christ (cf. Col. 3:4).
- **Sons of God**- In the New Testament, “sons of God” always refers to human beings who do God's will (Matthew 5:9; Romans 8:14, Romans 8:14,8:19). In other words, us, Christians.
- **Futility**- the quality or state of being futile : uselessness.
- **Bondage**- servitude or subjugation to a controlling person or force. Slavery
- **Corruption**- a departure from the original or from what is pure or correct.
- **Redemption**-the act, process, or an instance of redeeming, taking something that’s worthless and making it worth something, or correcting a wrong.

Meaning of the text-

- **V18- *For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.*** Paul is telling the Romans that no matter what they are going through right now something better is coming.
- **V19- *For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God.*** The creation was affected by the fall (Gen. 3) just like humans and is awaiting the day when Christ returns to make all things new. As people accept Jesus as savior, they are revealed to be a son of God (Christian).
- **V20- *For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope.*** All creation became useless for God's intended purpose (cf. Gen. 3:17-19; Isa. 24:3-8), but one day God will remove the curse of the Fall (cf. Rev. 22:3). This is not the world that God intended it to be!

He subjected physical creation to futility

1. Because of human rebellion (Gen. 3).
 2. As an attempt to turn mankind to Himself (cf. Deuteronomy 27-29).
 3. God foreknew Adam's rebellion. He allowed it to occur and chose to work with a fallen mankind in a fallen world. This is not the world that God intended it to be.
- **V21- *that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.*** Nature will be a part of eternity (cf. Isa. 11:6-10). Heaven is coming back to a recreated earth (cf. Matt. 5:18; 24:35; 2 Pet. 3:10; Rev. 21:1). The future may well be a return to Eden's bliss; fellowship between God and mankind, individual to individual, mankind to animals, and mankind to the earth! The Bible begins with God, mankind, and the animals (i.e., Isa. 11:6-9) in fellowship and harmony in a garden setting (cf. Gen. 1-2) and the Bible ends in a similar way (cf. Revelation 21-22).

- **V22- *For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.*** Creation is groaning to be reborn. Creation is restless and longs to get back to the original state of the garden.

In Jewish circles this concept was often called "the birth pains of the new age" (cf. Mark 13:8). The dawn of the new day of righteousness will not be without problems. The moral and spiritual conditions of this fallen planet will become worse and worse (cf. Matthew 24; Mark 13; Luke 21; 2 Thess. 2:1-12; and also note the seven seals, trumpets, and bowls of Revelation 5-18). However, the pains of childbirth are pains of hope and joy in the coming birth, so too, the new age!

- **V23- *And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.*** We as believers are saved and spiritually in Christ at the right hand of God, although, we still live in the flesh and battle sin. Our fleshly bodies must die for our spirit to be united with our glorified body when Christ returns, then we will be in our eternal home permanently in Heaven. Our spirits and all of creation long for this day.
- **V24- *For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees?*** We have assurance that Jesus is coming back even though we will not see it until it takes place.
- **V25- *But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.*** Christians will preserve in their faith until Christ returns.

Notes
