

“Temporal Groaning Outdone by Eternal Joy”

Romans 8:18-27

June 6, 2021

I. No Comparison (vs. 18-25)

- A. Our current sufferings are not able to be compared to the joys we'll know after Christ's return.

2 Corinthians 4:17 - For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison.

2 Corinthians 11:23b-27 - ²³ ...I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again. ²⁴ Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. ²⁵ Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, ²⁶ I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my own countrymen, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false brothers. ²⁷ I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked.

- B. The “groanings” of the created world and our own groaning anticipate and even highlight the coming bliss of eternity.

II. No Abandonment (vs. 26-27)

- A. We are not alone in our present sufferings.

Isaiah 63:9a. - In all their affliction He was afflicted...

- B. In the New Covenant, the Spirit identifies with our suffering in a mysterious but profound way.
1. He groans along with us and for us.
 2. His groans are heard by the Father as intercessions for us.
 3. The Spirit's perfect intercessions are always answered.
 4. Through the Spirit, we are sustained through trial.