

Exegetical Notes - Romans 8:18-30

**“Expectant Living”**

Prepared by Charles H. Jensen, Pastor, Cornerstone Fellowship

101 Kyllies Road, Coatesville, PA 19320

610-384-1375

[charleshjensen@aol.com](mailto:charleshjensen@aol.com)

**Romans 8:18-30**

**Verses 18-22**

*I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. <sup>19</sup> For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. <sup>20</sup> For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup> that<sup>[a]</sup> the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup> We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.*

- The phrase, “present suffering,” clearly indicates that Christians suffer. However, the sufferings of this life are nothing when we consider the joy of God’s kingdom which we will see.
- All of creation means that all created things await the moment when the kingdom of God comes.
- Now, all of creation is “frustrated” because it is not the perfect thing which God created it to be (see Genesis 3:17-19). When Adam sinned the whole of creation was affected by his sin. God cursed all of creation as part of his righteous judgment on Adam.
- The Glorious Hope of the Church is the return of God’s Kingdom to earth (see Revelation 21:1 and 2 Peter 3:13). When Christ returns creation will be renewed to its pre-fall perfection. When the triumphant Church returns with Christ, creation will be liberated from the curse of Adam’s sin and will be restored.
- At this moment, all creation waits as in the pain/suffering of childbirth for the moment of Christ’s return. Christ’s return is at hand.

### Verses 23-25

***Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup> For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? <sup>25</sup> But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.***

- The Church also awaits the moment of Christ's return.
- The Holy Spirit which lives in us tells us that when Christ comes we will be made the children of God and set free from our bodies. This is the hope of all of us who have accepted Christ as our Savior.
- This hope is presently realized despite our suffering in that we know we are saved by the redemption of Christ. However, it is not yet actualized because Christ has not yet returned.
- So, we wait patiently for his return knowing that then our hope will become fact.

### Verses 26-27

***In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. <sup>27</sup> And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.***

- In this moment, when our hope is realized but not actualized, the Spirit helps us. In our spiritual frailty we don't even know how we should pray. So, the Holy Spirit intercedes for us in prayer. When our prayers are not in accord with the will of God because our present suffering blinds us to what God is doing, the Spirit brings our prayers into agreement with the mind of God.

### Verses 28-30

***<sup>28</sup> And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup> For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. <sup>30</sup> And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.***

- The Holy Spirit causes us to remember that even when it does not seem to be so to us, God is working to accomplish His purpose in all things. So all things will bring good to those who are His children.

- He has known those who would accept Jesus as Savior from before the beginning of time. Those he knew would accept Jesus as Savior, he predestined to become more and more like Jesus in nature and character.
- Jesus will be the firstborn Son, but he will have many brothers and sisters. This is the Church, the family of God. Through Christ they are justified before God and with him and all creation, they will be restored to perfection when Jesus comes.

(These exegetical notes are the foundational study for the sermon entitled *Expectant Living*. They have been prepared by the Reverend Doctor Charles H. Jensen, Interim Senior/Lead Pastor at Cornerstone Fellowship, Coatesville Pennsylvania. All rights are reserved by *Cornerstone Fellowship* & The Reverend Doctor Charles H. Jensen. They are used here by permission.)