

- All That God Is:
- Is Yours!

- What A Privilege - And:
- What A Treasure!

3. But - Then Paul Adds:

- That Perplexing Statement - At The End:

- Of 8:17 - "If So Be That We Suffer With Him, That We May Be Also Glorified Together" - That Is:
- With Jesus Christ!

- What Paul Means Is That - God Now Uses:

- Suffering In The Lives Of His Children:

- To Prepare Them - And - To Prepare You:

- For The Glory:

- You Will Experience:

- In Your Eternal Life!

- **IE:** Like Using Fire To Refine:

- And Purify Precious Metals!

- But - This Is A Difficult Truth:

- For Those Who Belong To The Lord!

- This Is A Hard Pill To Swallow!

- And - I'm Sure The Apostle Paul:

- Struggled With This Truth:

- In His Own Heart And Life Too!

4. But Then - He Wrote The Very Next Verse:

- 8:18 - Which Says:

- "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us!"

- God Revealed To Paul:

- So That - He Could Reveal To Us:

- That - Any Suffering You May Go Through In This World:

- That God Uses To Refine You & Purify You & Prepare You For
Glory:

- Is **Nothing** Compared To That Glory! His Glory!

5. Esther Rusthoi:

- Understood This When She Wrote:

- That Familiar Hymn:

- It Will Be Worth It All,

When We See Jesus!

Life's Trials Will Seem So Small,

When We See Christ!

- So - On Friday - I May Not Have Found:

- Anything That Was Worth:

- Parting With My Money!

- But - If You Are God's Child:

- You Will Find That:

- Any Suffering You Face - And:

- Any Struggle You Go Through:

- Will Be "Worth It All":

- When You See Christ & Even Receive His Glory!

- In Fact:

- In The Words Of Paul Again:

- 8:18 - "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us!"

- So - You See - In The Light Of:

- This Coming Glory:

1. ***There Is A Light In Suffering:***

- For The Child Of God!

- A Light!

- This Is Why Paul Begins This Verse:
 - With The Words - "I Reckon!"
 - This Means That:
 - He Spent Some Time Thinking:
 - About The Relationship Between His Present Suffering And His Future Glory!
- And - As He Was Thinking About It:
 - And - Praying About It:
 - And - Meditating On It:
 - He Had A "Light-Bulb" Moment:
 - In His Mind!
 - God Illuminated His Mind:
 - To Show Him That:
 - There Is Really No Comparison:
 - Between "The Sufferings Of This Present Time" - And - "The Glory Which Shall Be Revealed In Us!"
- There Is No Comparison:
 - In The Substance:
 - Of This Truth!
 - The Difference Between:
 - Suffering & Glory:
 - Is Like The Difference Between:
 - **IE:** The Weights On A Balance!
 - On One Side:
 - Of The Scale:
 - Is All The Suffering:
 - You Experience:
 - For The Sake Of Christ!
 - It May Be External Suffering:
 - That Comes From The Persecution:
 - Of This World - Or:
 - It May Be Internal Suffering:
 - That Comes From The Sorrow & Grief:
 - Of Sin - Both Yours & Others!
 - And - When You Are Experiencing This Suffering:
 - It All Feels So Heavy!
 - And Impossible To Escape!
 - But - For The Child Of God - You Can Look At:
 - The Other Side:
 - Of The Scale:
 - On Which Is All The Glory:
 - You Will Experience:
 - Because Of Your Relationship With Jesus Christ!
 - The Glory Of:
 - An Eternal Home:
 - With God!
 - The Glory Of:
 - An Eternal Holiness:
 - From God!
 - And The Weight Of This Glory:
 - Far Exceeds The Weight Of Suffering:
 - It Is "Not [Even] Worthy To Be Compared!"
 - But Also - There Is No Comparison:
 - In The Season:
 - Of This Truth!
 - The Difference Between:
 - The Length Of Your Suffering - And:
 - The Length OF Your Glory:

- Is Like The Difference Between:

IE: Light And Darkness!

- When You Go Through:

- "The Sufferings Of This Present Time" - At Times:

- It Seems So Dark!

- You Wonder If There Is Any Light At The End Of That Tunnel!

- Do You Remember The Words Of This Song?

- O Soul Are You Weary And Troubled?

No Light In The Darkness You See?

There's Light For A Look At The Savior!

And Life For Abundant And Free!

- Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus!

Look Full In His Wonderful Face!

And The Things Of Earth Will Grow Strangely Dim,

In The Light Of His Glory And Grace!

- You See - The Light:

- Of "His Glory" Will Become:

- The Light Of Your Own Glory:

- When - 8:18 - That Glory "Shall Be Revealed In Us!"

- This Glory Is Not Just:

- The Glory Of Christ:

- That Will Be Seen **By** You!

- This Glory Is:

- The Glory Of Christ:

- That Will Be Shared **With** You!

- The Apostle John Puts It This Way:

- In 1 John 3:2 - "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is!"

- And The Light Of This Glory:

- Far Exceeds The Darkness Of Suffering:

- It Is "Not [Even] Worthy To Be Compared!"

- Because - Your Suffering:

- Is Only Temporary - But:

- Your Glory:

- Will Be Timeless!

- Is It Any Wonder That:

- In 2 Corinthians 4:17-18 - Paul Also Wrote About This:

- And Said - "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; / While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal!"

- Christian - There Is Light:

- Even In Your Suffering Today!

- Let This Be A "Light-Bulb" Moment For You - Like It Was:

- For Paul!

- 8:18 - "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us!"

- And This Glory:

- Is So Great:

- That Paul Wants Us To Think About It:

- A Bit More!

- So - In 8:19-22 - He Adds:

- "For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. / For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected [the same] in hope, / Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. / For we know that the whole creation

- groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now!”
- The Glory You Have:
 - As A Child Of God - Both Now & Forever:
 - Is So Great:
 - That Even Creation Itself:
 - Is Looking For It & Longing For It:
 - Along With You!
- So - Not Only Is There:
 - A Light In Suffering:

2. ***There Is [Also] A Longing Through Suffering!***

- Which Is What We Find:
 - In 8:19-21 - Where Our Attention Is Turned:
 - To The “Earnest Expectation Of The Creature” - Which Is:
 - Creation Itself!
 - There Has Been A Lot Of Ink Spilled On Paper & Papyrus:
 - To Explain What These Verses Mean!
 - But - The Most Consistent Explanation:
 - Is That Paul Is Describing:
 - The Natural Creation:
 - Of God!
 - His Creation Apart From Angelic And Human Beings!
 - And He Personifies Creation:
 - By Giving It:
 - Feelings And Desires:
 - Just Like Our Own!
 - And He Does This:
 - Again - To Show Us Just How ***Great Our Glory*** Is!
 - It Is So Great That:
 - Its As If Creation Itself:
 - Is Groaning For It!
 - And So - We See In 8:19:
- The Present Desire:
 - Of Creation!
 - “For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God!”
 - Here - All Of God’s Creation:
 - Is Pictured As:
 - Watching!
 - It Has An “Earnest Expectation!”
 - The Original Word Translated Here:
 - Means To Look For Something:
 - With An Outstretched Head!
 - It’s Like You Are:
 - Straining Your Neck:
 - To See Something That Is Coming From A Distance!
 - **IE:** Like What I Saw People Doing At The Train Stations In Italy Last Year! They Know The Train Is Coming - They Are Just Looking To See If Its Close!
 - In A Similar Way:
 - Creation Is Pictured As:
 - Straining Its Neck:
 - To Watch For Something It Knows Is Coming!
 - Something Far Better:
 - Than It Sees Around It:
 - Right Now!
 - But - Is Also:
 - Waiting!
 - It - 8:19 - “Waiteth For The Manifestation Of The Sons Of God!”
 - Just Like We Are Waiting For:

- Our Future Glory:
 - So Is Creation Itself!
- It Is Longing For:
 - The Full Revelation:
 - The “Apocalypse” Of:
 - God’s Children! Of Believers In Christ!
 - Why? “Material Nature Is Metaphorically In Sympathy With Redeemed Man, And Shall Be Restored With Him!” (William Shedd)
- So - God’s Creation Is Given:
 - Life And Feeling:
 - To Show How We Ought To:
 - Long For This “Manifestation” As Well!
 - Because - If God Cares:
 - For His Creation:
 - Enough To Restore It:
 - From Its Fallen Condition!
 - Doesn’t God Care For:
 - His Children:
 - That Much More?
- But - Paul Continues!
 - And The Longing Of Creation:
 - Is Based On:
- The Past Degradation:
 - Which We Find In:
 - 8:20 - “For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected [the same] in hope!”
 - When Adam & Eve:
 - Committed The First Human Sin:
 - In The Garden Of Eden:
 - It Did Not Just Affect Them!
 - It Infected All Of Their Children:
 - 5:12 - “Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned!”
 - But Even More:
 - It Impacted All Of Creation!
 - Genesis 3:17-19 - “And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; / Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; / In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou [art], and unto dust shalt thou return!”
 - According To Genesis:
 - God Himself Is The One Who:
 - “Cursed” The Ground Of His Creation:
 - And Was The One Who:
 - “Subjected” It:
 - “To Vanity!”
 - So That Now - All Of Creation:
 - Because Of The Curse - Experiences:
- Frailty!
 - This Earth Is Frail!
 - Just Like Sin Ages Man:
 - The Sin Of Man Has Aged The Earth!
 - It Saps The Life Out Of It!
 - **IE:** Debate - Old Earth / Young Earth Creation - 6,000 Years *Is* Old For An Earth Forced To Contend With Sin!
 - Remember - First Murder - Cain & Able - Genesis 4:10 - God To Cain - “What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother’s blood crieth unto me from the ground!”

- How Much More Blood Cries Out From The Ground? Innocent Blood!
 - Even Christ's Blood!
- Also - Because Of The Curse:
 - All Of Creation Experiences:
- Fruitlessness!
 - Many Times - This Old Earth:
 - Fails To Produce Its Fruit!
 - **IE**: Sometimes With Too Much Rain! Sometimes With Too Little Rain! At The Beginning - It Was Not So - It Was Watered Just Right By The Lord Himself!
 - Also - Because Of The Curse:
 - All Of Creation Experiences:
- Futility!
 - Some Translations - Instead Of "Vanity":
 - "Frustration!" - But Why Would Creation Be Frustrated?
 - Same Reason You Might Be!
 - You Don't Get To Fulfill Your Purpose Or Potential!
 - God Created This World:
 - To Bless Man - But Also:
 - To Glorify Himself!
 - But For Now:
 - Creation Will Have To Wait:
 - Until Its Own Redemption And Restoration!
- Because - Even Though God:
 - "Subjected" His Creation To:
 - "Vanity" - He Still Did So:
 - "In Hope!"
 - God Had A Plan In Place:
 - Not Only To Redeem:
 - Fallen Man - Through The Gospel!
 - That Plan Includes:
 - The Restoration:
 - Of This Old, Cursed Earth!
- And So - God's Creation Is Given:
 - Hope In:
- The Future Deliverance:
 - That We Read About In:
 - 8:21 - "Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God!"
 - When God Fully Glorifies:
 - His Children - Body, Soul, Spirit:
 - At The Second Coming Of Jesus Christ:
 - God Will Also:
 - Reverse The Curse:
 - On Creation!
 - It Too Will Be:
 - Delivered!
 - Delivered From:
 - "The Bondage Of Corruption!"
 - Not The Bondage:
 - Of Its Own Sin!
 - But The Bondage:
 - From The Effects:
 - Of **Our** Sin!
 - Revelation 22:3 - "And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him!"
 - And So - All Of Creation Will Also Be:
 - Delivered To:

- “The Glorious Liberty - Or - The Liberty Of Glory - Of The Children Of God!”
- When The Curse Of The Earth:
 - Is Reversed:
 - It Will No Longer Be:
 - Frail, Fruitless, Futile!
 - Instead - The Purpose For Its Creation:
 - Will Finally & Forever Be:
 - Fulfilled!
 - A Picture Of This New Earth:
 - In The Kingdom Of Christ:
 - Is Given To Us In Several Passages - Including:
 - Isaiah 11:6-9 - “The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. / And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. / And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice’ den. / They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea!”
- If This Is What Creation:
 - Has To Look Forward To:
 - Imagine - Christian:
 - What **You** Have To Look Forward To!
 - If Creation:
 - Will Be Redeemed And Restored:
 - In Glory - Just Think About:
 - What Your Final Redemption And Restoration:
 - Will Be Like!
 - Because - If God Cares For:
 - His Creation In This Way:
 - How Much More:
 - Does He Care For You:
 - As His Child!
 - And - If Creation Looks For & Longs For:
 - This Glory - How Much More:
 - Can & Should You!
 - And That Leads Us To See That:

3. ***There Is A Lesson From Suffering!***

- Which Is What We Find In:
 - 8:22 - “For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now!”
 - Once Again - All Of God’s Creation:
 - Is Personified:
 - As If It Is Moaning And Groaning:
 - For The Reverse Of Its Curse!
 - But - There Is - I Believe:
 - A Physical Dimension:
 - To This Figurative Language!
 - The Earth Does, Indeed:
- Groan In Grief!
 - Grief For Its Own - Involuntary Suffering:
 - Of Sin And Sinners:
 - That Have Inhabited It And:
 - Have Exploited It:
 - From The Time Of The Fall Until Now!
 - **IE:** Its Like When You Breath A Heavy Sigh When You Pick Up Something Heavy That You Probably Shouldn’t Have!
 - In Mark 13:8 - Jesus Said That:
 - “There shall be earthquakes in divers places, and there shall be famines and troubles: these are the beginnings of sorrows!”

- In Matthew 24:7 - It Is Recorded That:
 - “There shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places!”
- Though God Is Sovereign:
 - Over All Of These Earthly Troubles:
 - Yet - They Give Expression To The Frailty & Frustration:
 - Of This Old World!
- The Other Picture Given:
 - Is That Through These Ways:
 - The Earth:
- Travails For Glory!
 - **IE:** It Is Experiencing Something Like The Birth-Pains Of A Mother! But - They Are Pains - As John Calvin Once Pointed Out - “Pains Of Birth, Not Death!”
 - After All - Jesus Said In:
 - Luke 21:25, 28 - “And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring!”
 - “And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh!”
- This Is The Lesson:
 - Not Just From Your Own Suffering:
 - But From The Suffering:
 - Of Creation Itself!
 - Even The Grief:
 - Of Creation:
 - Cannot Compare:
 - With Its Future Glory!

Conclusion:

1. And So - If God:
 - Cares For His Creation:
 - In This Way:
 - And Gives It Hope:
 - Of Its Own Redemption & Restoration!
 - How Much More:
 - Does God Care:
 - For You - If You Are:
 - His Child!
2. And That Is Why:
 - We Can - As Paul Did:
 - 8:18 - “Reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us!”
 - So - Keep On Looking To:
 - And Longing For:
 - The Glory:
 - That Will Not Only Be:
 - Revealed To You!
 - But Will Be:
 - Revealed In You!
 - For You Are The Child Of God!

Grace Baptist Church
Stephen Elmer, Pastor
 4245 North 200 West
 Greenfield, Indiana 46140
 317-326-2362
www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace
www.growatgrace.org
pastor-elmer@hotmail.com