

No Comparison

Romans 8: 18

Rom 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.

Intro:

A classroom had this sign:

"Experience is the hardest teacher. It gives the test first and then the lesson."

None of us like suffering!

We would avoid it at all costs.

Anec:

Woman in Grafton St whose son was killed in a car accident. {she had no hope}

But, for the believer there is great hope in the midst of the worst of suffering!

Thomas Watson:

"To know that nothing hurts the godly, is a matter of comfort; but to be assured that all things which fall out shall co-operate for their good, that their crosses shall be turned into blessings, that showers of affliction water the withering root of their grace and make it flourish more; this may fill their hearts with joy till they run over."

This morning we shall, God willing, consider four points from this verse:

- 1} The Reckoning of Suffering
- 2} The Reality of Suffering
- 3} The Reasoning of Suffering
- 4} The Reassurance of Suffering

1} The Reckoning of Suffering

Rom 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.

“reckon”

Λογίζομαι logizomai *log-id'-zom-ahee*
“to take an inventory”

It is most often translated in the NT simply as “Think”

In Romans 4: 22-24 it is translated 3 times as “Imputed” {how God will regard or think about us}

Note 1,

Q. Who is it here that is doing the Reckoning?

The Apostle Paul.

The one who suffered more than the vast majority of Christians will ever suffer!

Read 1 Corinthians 4: 9-13

Also 2 Corinthians 11: 17-28

Note 2,

Not only is Paul “reckoning” as one who is supremely qualified but as one who is under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit!

This is God’s perspective as well as Pauls!

Compare:

1Co 2:9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

1Co 2:10 But God hath revealed *them* unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

The Holy Spirit directly communicated to Paul regarding his afflictions:

Act 20:22 And now, behold, I go bound in the spirit unto Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there:

Act 20:23 Save that **the Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions abide me.**

Act 20:24 But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

2} The Reality of Suffering

Rom 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.

Haldane:

"By this we are reminded that the present is a time of suffering, and that this world is to believers as a field of battle."

Johnny Mathis wrote a song back in 1972 about the birth of Christ.

"Because the world is waiting
Waiting for one child
a child that would grow up and turn tears to laughter
Hate to love, war to peace
And everyone to everyone's neighbour
Misery and suffering would be forgotten forever"

Q. Is this True?

Q. Was this the mission of Christ?

See Matthew 10: 34-36

Contrast:

Luke 2: 10-11

"All people" cannot mean everyone without exception, then the words of Matthew 10 would be redundant!

No, it is all kinds of people!

In distinction from the Jews only.

Getting back to our second heading:

"The Reality of Suffering"

Read 1 Peter 4: 12-19

We have here 8 principles of Christian suffering.

- 1} It is Normal v.12
- 2} It is Necessary v.13
- 3} It is Blessed v.14
- 4} It is Not deserved v.15
- 5} It is Noble v.16
- 6} It is Now v.17
- 7} It is Distinguishing v.18
- 8} It is Nurturing v.19

Also we see the Reality of suffering in:

2 Timothy 3: 10-12

3} The Reasoning of Suffering

Rom 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.

Illus:

Putting Gold and Garbage on opposite sides of a weighing scales.

Read 2 Cor 4: 16-18

A.W. Pink:

{in his book, comfort for Christians}

“Afflictions are light when compared with what we really deserve. They are light when compared with the sufferings of the Lord Jesus. But perhaps their real lightness is best seen by comparing them with the weight of glory which is awaiting us.”

4} The Reassurance of Suffering

Rom 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.**

Haldane:

"While the sufferings of believers here are only temporary, the glory which is to be revealed is eternal. Though yet concealed, it is already in existence, its discovery only is future."

Read Rev. 19: 7-9

{Note, how the attention is given to the wife of the Lamb!}

Note 2,

Q. Where will this glory be revealed?

"In us"

Haldane:

If the rays of the sun illuminate the darkness on which they shine, what will be that light which the Sun of Righteousness will produce in the children of Him who is the Father of Lights !

Q. How will this be?

1Jn 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.

May God bless his word to our souls.

Amen.