

The Whole Creation Groaneth

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For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body. For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it. **Rom. 8:22-25**

- I. For we know that the whole creation...
 - A. There are many things that are just so obvious that everyone knows them to be true.
 1. No argument can be put forth against it to disprove it.
 - B. This is one of those things ...that every living thing in the universe experiences pain and misery.
 - C. Pain and misery exist because of sin that has blighted God's perfect Creation.
 - D. Everything that lives experiences pain because of the sin and selfishness of other living creatures.
 1. No creature is more affected by this than man, who is made in the image and likeness of God himself.

- II. Groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now...
 - A. All are united in mutual sorrow.
 - B. It is a universal cry of grief and anguish from every creature that is alive.
 - C. The groaning is because of the pain, suffering, vanity, and death that seems to reign over all living creatures.
 1. Something is always wrong – with everyone; with every family; with every church, etc.
 2. Someone or something is always being mistreated or abused.
 3. To so many life has no meaning and so they despair of life itself.
 4. To many people and creatures life is nothing but an existence of pain and suffering with no meaning.
 - D. We hear one or a few voices at a time, but God hears all of it at once.
 - E. This is why the world's songs are songs of sorrow and pain.
 - F. This is why worldly entertainment is centered around pain and sorrow.
 1. TV, Movies, books, etc.
 2. The only comfort the unregenerate world has is to obtain sympathy from others.
 3. They try to comfort themselves with an illusion that eternity will simply be a continuation of life as it is here, but without the pain and suffering and injustice.
 - a) That somehow God is going to take all the sinners, as they are, into a place that has none of the consequences of sin, and everything will be wonderful.
 - b) If God took sinners into heaven without taking away their sinfulness, and regenerating them, they would immediately turn heaven into what the earth is now.

- G. Since it is the cry of all the creation, it is all that is heard by those who do not hear the voice of the Good Shepherd.
- III. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves....
- A. All creatures hope for a better day, but only the children of God WAIT for it.
 - B. The children of God have hope in death while the world has despair.
 - C. We long to be clothed upon with that new body and be in the place of the redeemed that Jesus went to prepare for us.
 - 1. Where there is no more pain or sorrow or crying.
 - D. So, the children of God groan, too, but it is different than the groaning of despair that the rest of the creation does.
 - E. Throughout all history up until now ...it has always been the same in every generation.
- IV. For we are saved by hope ...
- A. What if there were no hope of this whole big mess being fixed?
 - B. What if eternity only held the prospect of endless pain, suffering, weeping, and groaning?
 - C. But that is precisely what eternity holds for those who refuse to avail themselves of the hope that God has offered.
 - 1. "...weeping, and wailing, and gnashing of teeth."
 - D. For those who are redeemed and have staked their claim in God's kingdom there is the promise of a new heavens and a new earth, where there will be no more groaning and pain.

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. **Rev. 21:1 through Rev. 21:5**

- E. There won't be any songs there of sin, pain, and despair.
- F. No more hurt, no more sin, no more grief.
- G. This is hope that worth patiently waiting for.