

1. We look at the past [Eccl 7:10]; the present [Isa 56:12]; the future [Prv 27:1; Jms 4:13-15]. All days of this age [saeculum]: *vanity* [Eccl 1:2 - 12:14]
2. There is a time up ahead wh/ cannot be compared to saeculum life - Rm 8:18.
 - i. But isn't there continuity between this age & the age to come?
 - ii. What is incomparable? present *sufferings* & future *glory*. Not a difference of degree, but an incomparable comparison.

1st: A Considered Perspective

1. *For I consider that*: similar to *convinced* [v38] - a conclusion resulting from studied examination. 6:11 - Christianity = convictions of informed conscience
2. Paul *considers* our union w/ the resurrected Christ.
 - i. Rm 4:25-5:1 atonement: justified - peace w/ God
 - ii. Rm 6:3-5 united in His death & resurrection - v11, v13
 - iii. Rm 8:11 alive by HS: children of God - v16-17. v18 *consider*
3. *I consider that* - in Jesus: right w/ God & alive to God.

2nd: The Character of This Present Time

1. Rm 8:17: *if indeed* [since after all] *we suffer w/ Him*. Lk 6:22-23.
2. Rm 8:18: *the sufferings of this present time* - a suffering common to all men as men as sinners in fallen world. But v18 = *suffer w/ Him*: suffering unique to discipleship: suffer righteously for righteousness.
3. *suffer*: "pathema" - 'passion' - acted upon -> pain.
4. *the present time*: 'the now time': punctiliar, momentary: dot on a line. Time: linear - this age [suffering] / age to come [glory]: incomparable comparison

3rd: A Contrasting Comparison

1. Present sufferings *are not* [worthy to be compared with] = economic term. Weighed on scales & evaluated. Put suffering on one side of scale & glory on the other, & suffering gets flipped up in the air!

2. 2C 4:17 See contrast & weight up difference & conclude - No Comparison.
 - i. *momentary* - contrasted w/ *eternal*.
 - ii. *light* [w/o weight] *affliction* contrasted w/ *weight of glory*:
 - iii. *far beyond all comparison* - Grk idiom: "hyperbole into hyperbole."
 - iv. We can contrast the 2 realms - but there is no comparison.

4th: The Coming Glory

1. *the glory that is to be revealed to us* - lit: "the about to be glory"
2. *is to be revealed*: 'apocalypse' - unveiled, disclosed: already but not yet. Jesus is already glorified, but new cosmos is yet to be manifest
3. *to us* - lit "in us." We experience suffering *in us* & Paul speaks of glory to be revealed *in us*. 2 Th 1:10; Rm 8:29; 1 Jn 3:2 *we shall be like Him*

Applic #1: Let Us Cultivate an Eternal Perspective

1. Col 3:1-4 *set your mind on thgs above*. Get eternal perspective by looking at invisible thgs - 2C 4:17-18 [Rm 8:18 - word is repeated 4x? - *seen*]
 - i. 2 realms: *seen & not seen*. Created thgs: one *temporal*, the other *eternal*
 - ii. How to see thgs that are not seen? - 5:7 faith - 2C4:3-4 *see* [discern] Christ & perceive your destiny [Rm 8:29].
2. Hb 12:1-2 - what is *set before us*? Jesus' joy! How can we *fix eyes* on what is unseen? Faith: Hb 11:1, 7a, 27. Word of God reveals that what is yet unseen is more substantial, real, true than what we experience by empirical senses.

Applic #2: Embrace Your Suffering For Christ With an Eternal Perspective

1. We can't to live in '24 as fallen people in fallen world that faces suffering.
2. Embrace discipleship/churchmanship - follow Jesus into '24 knowing *that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared w/ the glory that is to be revealed to us*. AMEN.