

Evening Worship / February 5 2023

“Groans, Groans & Super Groans!” Romans 8:18-27

Last week, I concluded my message referring to the happy “Abba Father” cry of the New Born Again Christian. His or her eyes have been opened! He / she sees God’s Kingdom, is awed by God’s glory, and though these things are spied from a distance and seen through a glass darkly, the Vision is beyond this world wonderful! We praise God! Yet, while we praise God, we are still separate from Him, still struggling in this world full of sin and pain:

I. The Cause of Groaning –

¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. Romans 8:18 (NKJV)

1. The cause of groaning is / are –
... the sufferings of this present time... Romans 8:18

A. For Paul his time as a Christian on earth was a time of suffering, pain and persecution –
—I speak as a fool—I am more: in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often. ²⁴ From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one. ²⁵ Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; ²⁶ in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; ²⁷ in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness—²⁸ besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches. ²⁹ Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to stumble, and I do not burn with indignation?
³⁰ If I must boast, I will boast in the things which concern my infirmity. ³¹ The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying. ³² In Damascus the governor, under Aretas the king, was guarding the city of the Damascenes with a garrison, desiring to arrest me; ³³ but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped from his hands. 2 Corinthians 11:23–33 (NKJV)

B. His Roman readers, who soon after Paul’s letter, while under Nero, would experience similar or even worse persecution than Paul, they were as Paul writes later in this chapter, sheep to the slaughter –
³⁶ As it is written: “For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.” Romans 8:36 (NKJV)

2. Paul told Timothy that persecution was the lot of all of the godly –
¹² Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. 2 Timothy 3:12 (NKJV)

3. The cause of groanings, difficulties, trials, death is sin, and all men are impacted by sin –
⁷ Yet man is born to trouble, As the sparks fly upward. Job 5:7 (NKJV)

²³ For the wages of sin is death, ... Romans 6:23 A (NKJV)

Yet, death and effects of sin have spread far beyond man himself -

II. The Groans of Creation –

¹⁹ For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.

²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected *it* in hope; ²¹ because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. Romans 8:19–22 (NKJV)

1. *Note what is said here about creation –*

A. “creation was subjected to futility” *vanity, disappointing, dying, nothing lasts forever*

B. “bondage of corruption” – *grass withers, flowers fade, nature has been subjected to the curse because of sin –*

¹⁶ To the woman He said: “I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire *shall be* for your husband, And he shall rule over you.”

¹⁷ Then to Adam He said, “Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat of it’: “Cursed *is* the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat *of* it All the days of your life. ¹⁸ Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field. ¹⁹ In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you *are*, And to dust you shall return.” Genesis 3:16–19 (NKJV)

- *Pain in child bearing*
- *Struggle in relationships*
- *Thorns & thistles, weeds in nature, work, sweat*

2. *Even the Heavens themselves will not last forever –*

²⁵ Of old You laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands. ²⁶ They will perish, but You will endure; Yes, they will all grow old like a garment; Like a cloak You will change them, And they will be changed. Psalm 102:25–26 (NKJV)

3. *The creation feels this pain and groans under it -*

²² For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. Romans 8:22 (NKJV)

A. *It is groaning for something different, better -*

⁶ “The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, The leopard shall lie down with the young goat, The calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little child shall lead them. ⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze; Their young ones shall lie down together; And the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸ The nursing child shall play by the cobra’s hole, And the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper’s den. ⁹ 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. Isaiah 11:6–9 (NKJV)

B. *Creation is subjected in hope, but it doesn’t understand that hope, even ungodly human beings do not understand the hope we have in Jesus Christ, otherwise they would repent of sin –*

¹² And in that day the Lord GOD of hosts Called for weeping and for mourning, For baldness and for girding with sackcloth. ¹³ But instead, joy and gladness, Slaughtering oxen and killing sheep, Eating meat and drinking wine: “Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die!” Isaiah 22:12–13 (NKJV)

They cover their pains with food, drink and parties...

III. The Groans of Christians –

²³ Not only *that*, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. ²⁴ For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for *it* with perseverance. Romans 8:23–25 (NKJV)

1. *We groan too –*

A. *We have the firstfruits –*

²³ Not only *that*, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.

B. *We have a spiritual taste, that the LORD is good –*

⁸ Oh, taste and see that the LORD *is* good; Blessed *is* the man *who* trusts in Him! Psalm 34:8 (NKJV)

C. *We have the fruits of God's Spirit –*

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. Galatians 5:22–23 (NKJV)

2. *But we groan because we long for more, the full experience of being God's children / having new bodies -*

... even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. Romans 8:23

3. *We "hope" for things we still do not SEE –*

¹² For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known. 1 Corinthians 13:12 (NKJV)

⁷ For we walk by faith, not by sight. 2 Corinthians 5:7 (NKJV)

4. *We groan because we struggle, and too often fail –*

¹⁷ For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. Galatians 5:17 (NKJV)

5. *We know failure can be fatal –*

¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, ²¹ envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told *you* in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. Galatians 5:19–21 (NKJV)

6. *We know the first-fruits are deliciously wonderful, but we know too, they are only first-fruits, the taste of something much more -*

¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us. Romans 8:18 (NKJV)

¹⁶ Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward *man* is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory, ¹⁸ while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen *are* temporary, but the things which are not seen *are* eternal. 2 Corinthians 4:16–18 (NKJV)

IV. *The Super-Groans of God's Holy Spirit –*

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. ²⁷ Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to *the will of God*. Romans 8:26–27 (NKJV)

1. *The Spirit, God's holiness helps:*

A. **helps in our weaknesses. :26**

B. *Helps with our lack of knowledge –*

For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought...

C. *He groans / intercedes / prays for us, beyond what we can –*

but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. :26 B

A. T. Robertson says:

“The Holy Spirit lays hold of our weaknesses along with (*syn*) us and carries His part of the burden facing us (*anti*) as if two men were carrying a log, one at each end.”

2. *Groans, Groans & Super Groans, compared –*

A. *Groans of creation and unconverted human beings, often without understanding, and sometimes mixed with Satanic complaints against God -*

⁹ **And men were scorched with great heat, and they blasphemed the name of God who has power over these plagues; and they did not repent and give Him glory. Revelation 16:9 (NKJV)**

B. *Groans of believers, they have a taste of God's goodness, they want more –*

C. *Groans of God's Spirit, He has the POWER and the ability to get us more, He helps us according to God's will –*

²⁷ **Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to *the will of God*. Romans 8:27 (NKJV)**

Three or more languages are spoken in my house:

(1) *English*

(2) *Russian – Ukrainian*

(3) *Cat*

I feel I have a fairly good understanding of the cat language ... but

God's Holy Spirit knows God's language / God knows His Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will help our lives and our prayers to match God's will!

¹³ **for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure. Philippians 2:13 (NKJV)**

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