

Scripture: Romans 8:18-28

Singing: 387:1-4 – 383:1-5 – 355:1-3 – 420: 2, 5

Intro: Romans 8 is *Paul's Psalm of Assurance of Salvation*

A. It begins with *no condemnation* and ends with *no separation*

B. Yet in between the points of *grace and glory* is a stretch called *suffering*

1. No one escapes suffering since *God married sin and suffering*

2. Bible speaks clearly and encouragingly about *reality of suffering*

a. it outlines a comforting perspective: *the Potter (Rom. 8:28)*

b. it offers an attractive perspective: *the Deliverer! (Phil. 3:20-21)*

God's Counsel to His Waiting Church (1)

I. Don't lose perspective in your suffering

II. Don't think you are alone in your sighing

III. Don't lose sight of the nature of your groaning in this suffering

I. God's Counsel to His Waiting Church: *Don't lose perspective in suffering*

A. God's chosen vessel Paul is *no stranger to suffering*

1. From *earthly perspective* Paul's life was a *most miserable life* (1 Cor. 15:19; 2 Cor. 11:23-33)

a. yet learned to be content (Phil 4:11)

b. even learned to glory in suffering (2 Cor. 12:9)

c. still he wasn't a stoic under suffering (Phil. 1:23)

2. As true believer we will *never* be exempt from suffering

a. we share in the common misery of curse (1 Cor. 10:13)

b. Jesus never promised His followers exemption: John 16:33

3. Yet God's people have much that an unbeliever doesn't have

a. God's faithfulness (Heb. 13:5)

b. God's control (Ps. 99:1; Rom. 8:28)

c. God's power (1 Cor. 10:13)

d. God's encouragements: *1 Peter 4:15; James 1:2-3; Hebrews 12:5-13 & Romans 5:3-4*

- B. God's counsel in suffering: *Don't lose the right perspective!* (Rom. 8:18)
1. *For I reckon*
 - a. in intellectual exercise in which we weight the facts
 2. *the sufferings are in **present time***
 - a. the sufferings are **real** but they are **temporal**
 3. *the glory which shall be revealed in you*
 - a. this we are to eye *in the battle of Christian life* (Heb. 11 – 12:4)
 - b. this glory is *unspeakable* (2 Cor. 4:17-18)
 - c. this glory is *already existing* (1 Peter 1:4)
 - details are largely unknown
 - the full revelation will be **in us**
 - d. this glory each saint is to *look to with expectation* (Rom. 8:17-19)
 4. *the glory is not worthy to be compared with the suffering*

Closing appeal to *lost Mansoul!*

A. Lord Emmanuel's first question:

*For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul **or be cast away**? Or what shall a man (then?) give in exchange for his soul? (Matt. 16:26)*

B. Lord Emmanuel's second question:

What iniquity have you found in me, that you are gone far from me and that you walk after vanity and are become vain? (Jer. 2:5)

C. Lord Emmanuel's third question:

How often would I have gathered thy children ...? Matt. 23:37