

BOOK OF ROMANS
THERE'S A WHOLE LOT OF GROANING GOING ON!
ROMANS 8:18-27

Introduction

Verse 18 of our text reminds us of **one of the most FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS of our LIVES AS BELIEVERS**. Not we need reminding, but that **TRUTH** is this—**WE ARE NOT HOME YET!** Let me remind you:

There are THREE ASPECTS to our SALVATION as BELIEVERS:

There is a PAST ASPECT to our SALVATION!

When we were **BORN AGAIN BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD** we were **DELIVERED IMMEDIATELY** from the **PENALTY OF OUR SINS** and **GOD'S HOLY SPIRIT** took up residence within us as a **EARNEST** or **GUARANTEE** of our **EVENTUAL FULL REDEMPTION** in **GLORY!**

There is a PRESENT ASPECT to our SALVATION!

Since the time we were **BORN AGAIN BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD**, we have been able to experience, by the **HOLY SPIRIT'S** help with **DELIVERANCE FROM THE POWER OF SIN** in our lives among other things!

There is a FUTURE ASPECT to our SALVATION!

At some point of time in the **FUTURE**, in the **LORD'S TIMING** we **SHALL BE DELIVERED FROM THE VERY PRESENCE OF SIN!**

For this we have a **SURE HOPE** or **SURE EXPECTATION!**

While we **WAIT** to be **DELIVERED FROM THIS WORLD**, we live in a world that is under a **CURSE** because of **SIN**. As a result of **SIN'S CURSE**, there is a lot of **GROANING** and **TRAVAIL** that takes place here that we are called to deal with. And if we are not careful, it is easy for us to **BECOME DISCOURAGED** and it is easy for us to want to **GIVE UP!**

However, if there is one thing this passage teaches us, it is that our **LIFE IN THE SPIRIT** is to be **A LIFE OF DILIGENCE**. The word **DILIGENCE** means, *"to be characterized by steady, earnest and energetic activity."* It is the opposite of **GIVING UP!**

In fact, the **HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD** is able to give us **HOPE** during even the most troubled of times of our lives!

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This passage concerns the **STRUGGLE** that is going both **IN** and **AROUND ALL OF US** who have placed our **FAITH** and **HOPE** in **CHRIST!**

I. WE SEE THAT THE CREATION GROANS. (Vs. 19-22)

The word *"groaneth"* in *verse 22* means *"to sigh"*. It has the idea of *groaning under a burden together*. The phrase *"travaileth in pain together"* means *"suffering agony together."*

A. Notice Creation's Experience. (Vs 20)

CREATION came under the **CURSE**, not by its own doing, but because of the **SIN** of **ADAM**. (*Genesis 3:17-19*)

Because **ADAM** chose to walk in **REBELLION** to the clear **COMMAND** of **GOD**, **ALL OF CREATION** was thrown under a **CURSE!**

B. Notice Creation's Expression. (Vs 22)

This verse depicts **CREATION** as **GROANING** and **TRAVAILING** like a woman in the throes of childbirth. The results of **SIN'S CURSE** are plain to see!

e.g. What we call natural disasters: Things like earthquakes, floods, tornados, hurricanes, etc. are a result of the fall. So are thorns, pain, violence and death, and rot and decay!

However, even in the midst of **CREATION'S** pain, it still lifts up its *"voice"* so to speak in **PRAISE** to **GOD'S** as it shows forth **HIS MAJESTY** and **GLORY!** (*Psalms 148*)

C. Notice Creation's Expectation. (Vs 19, 21)

These verses tell us that **CREATION** itself expects to be **DELIVERED** from the **CURSE** that has been placed upon it.

The word *"expectation"* in *verse 19* brings to mind the image of a person standing on their tiptoes in order to see something. *A straining expectation*. So **CREATION** yearns for that time when it will in fact be *"delivered"* from the ravages of the **CURSE** of **SIN** along with the **SONS OF GOD!**

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While the world and all of **CREATION** reside under a **CURSE** this evening, there is still great beauty in this world.

Try to imagine the most beautiful natural sight you have ever seen. With that image in mind, remember that what you saw was a sight **MARRIED BY SIN**. Now, try to imagine how **GLORIOUS** that same sight will be when the **CURSE OF SIN** is forever removed!

CREATION longs to **BE FREE** and **GOD** longs to **FREE IT!** **HE** will **FREE IT** some day! Because when **JESUS** died on the **CROSS** for the **REDEMPTION OF SINNERS**, **HE** also **REDEEMED** this **SIN CURSED WORLD!** One day, the shackles will fall off and all **CREATION** will rejoice!

WE SEE CREATION GROANS.

II. WE SEE THE CHILD OF GOD GROANS. (Vs 23-25)

A. Notice The Child Of GOD'S Agony! (Vs 23)

Along with **CREATION**, **THE CHILD OF GOD GROANS!**

Primarily, **PAUL** is speaking of our **DESIRE TO BE FREE** from these **MORTAL, BROKEN, SINFUL BODIES!**

He mentions the *"first fruits of the Spirit."* This refers to that **INDWELLING MINISTRY** of the **SPIRIT OF GOD** in the **BELIEVER'S LIFE** that we recently saw in our study!

Again, when we got **SAVED**, the **SPIRIT OF GOD** moved in!
Romans 8:9

When the **HOLY SPIRIT** came, **HE** worked in us in such a way that we began **SEEING SIN LIKE GOD SEES SIN!**

In simple terms, the **SPIRIT OF GOD "sensitized"** us to **SIN!**

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We became **SENSITIVE TO SIN** around us and in us!
As a result, we are **AFFLICTED BY THE SINS WE COMMIT** and **THAT WE SEE OTHERS COMMIT!**

Now listen to me very closely and don't misunderstand this!
If **SIN** doesn't bother you, you have a serious **SPIRITUAL PROBLEM!** If you can even witness **SIN** and it not affect you and grieve you, then something is very wrong in your **HEART!** Also, if you can personally **SIN** and it doesn't bother you in the least, something is very wrong with that too!

When the **HOLY SPIRIT** moved in and began *sensitizing* us to **SIN**, that served to produce within us as **BELIEVERS** a sense of **LONGING!** We want to be **DELIVERED** from these **SINFUL, MORTAL BODIES** and this **SINFUL WORLD!**

Regardless of what anybody tells you, **OUR FLESH DID NOT GET SAVED WHEN WE TRUSTED THE LORD!** It is just as **DEPRAVED** and as **WICKED** as it has ever been. (Remember what **PAUL** said in *Romans 7:18-25.*)

Aren't there times when you would do just about anything just to be **FREE** from your **SINFUL FLESH?** Wouldn't it be a **BLESSING** if you never again had another wicked thought. . .never did another wicked deed. . .never had another sinful attraction or lust? Oh the **AGONY OF IT ALL!**

B. Notice The Child Of GOD'S Anticipation! (Vs 24-25)

PAUL writes that we are saved by *"hope"*. What does he mean? As I've said before, *"hope"* in the **BIBLE** has a vastly different meaning than it does in our world today. When people use the word *"hope"* now, they are saying, *"I wish"*, or *"I want"*.

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When the **BIBLE** uses the word "*hope*" it means "*an assurance or a sure expectation based on a conviction.*"

Instead of "*hope*" being a fond wish or desire, **BIBLICAL HOPE** is *a deep settled knowledge grounded in the promises of God!*

We are **SAVED** by **FAITH IN THE PROMISE OF GOD** that tells us "*that whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*"

It is a **CONVICTION** that **SALVATION COMES THROUGH FAITH IN THE SHED BLOOD and THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST!**

It is the **SURE KNOWLEDGE** based on that **SALVATION** that **OUR LORD WILL COME FOR US AND WILL TAKE US TO HEAVEN ONE DAY!**

It is the **SURE KNOWLEDGE** that we will be **CHANGED** from these vile creatures that we are and that we will be made like **HIM!** (*This morning 1 Cor. 15:49-57; 1 John 3:1-3*)

We who are **SAVED, GROAN TO BE FREE** from these bodies! (*Romans 7:24*)

We long to be remade into the **IMAGE** of the **LORD JESUS!**

I am glad that I can report to you this evening, that day is coming! One day, whether it be by the **undertaker** or by the **UPPERTAKER**, this sinful flesh will breath its last and we in **CHRIST** will be **REMADE** in the **IMAGE OF OUR SAVIOUR!**

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This was the heart of **DAVID** in *Psalm 17:15*—"*As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness.*"

And that should be the **HEART'S DESIRE** of every **BORN AGAIN SAINT OF GOD!**

THE CREATION GROANS...THE CHILD OF GOD GROANS...
III. WE SEE THE COMFORTER GROANS. (Vs 26-27)
These verses tell us that it isn't just the **CREATION** and the **CHILD OF GOD** who are **GROANING** in this present world.

Our **COMFORTER**, the **BLESSED HOLY SPIRIT** that **DWELLS WITHIN BELIEVERS**, also **GROANS** with us.

I am glad that we are **BLESSED** to have **ONE** with us **WHO** is able to **KNOW OUR INFIRMITIES** better than we do, but **HELPS US** when we don't know **HOW** to **PRAY!**

We **KNOW** that **SCRIPTURE** tells us that our **SAVIOUR'S** experience on earth in **HIS FLESH**, should give us **CONFIDENCE** in **HIM** as our **INTERCESSOR!**

Hebrews 4:15—"*For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.*"

Likewise, **JESUS** said **HE** would give us **ANOTHER COMFORTER OF THE SAME KIND AS HE IS—THE HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD!** (*John 14:16*)

A. The Comforter Sustains Us! (Vs 26a)
This verse teaches us that the Holy Spirit *comes alongside of us as* we travel through this harsh world and literally "*takes hold of our burden.*" (*Cf. Ecclesiastes 4:9-10*)

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The word *“helpeth”* here is the same word *“help”* used in **Luke 10:40** where **MARTHA** asked **JESUS** to bid **MARY** to *“help”* her serve! (The only other place this word is found!)

We, **BELIEVERS**, need **HELP** every day with the **BURDENS OF THIS LIFE** to make it through another day!

I'm talking about the **BURDEN** of living in these **WEAK**, **SINFUL**, and **MORALLY DEFICIENT BODIES!**

The **HOLY SPIRIT KNOWS** our **TENDENCY TOWARD EVIL** and **HE HELPS US!**

The **HOLY SPIRIT KNOWS** that we are **PRONE TO WANDER** and **HE HELPS US!**

*(“Prone to wander LORD I feel it...
Prone to leave the GOD I love!”)*

The **HOLY SPIRIT KNOWS** that we often **GROW WEARY IN WELL DOING** and **HE HELPS US TO NOT FAINT OR GIVE UP!**

And get this, it is only through the **MINISTRY** of the **HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD WORKING IN US** to **HELP US** that we are even able to do anything that could be called good!

We are **WEAK** and we are **SINNERS**, but **HE STRENGTHENS** us so that we are able, by **HIS HELP**, to **CARRY ON** for the **GLORY OF GOD!**

The Comforter Sustains Us.

- B. The Comforter Speaks For Us! (Vs 26b-27)**
PAUL appeals here to the arena of **PRAYER!** Do you ever have situations where you **don't know how to PRAY?** (*Cf. Jeremiah 10:23*)

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Because of the inadequacies of our **FLESH** and our **MIND** (that each of us is still **RENEWING** as we **GROW IN THE LORD!**), we often cannot **PRAY** in a manner that is absolutely consistent with the **PERFECT WILL OF GOD!**

However, the **HOLY SPIRIT, WHO IS GOD, KNOWS** the **WILL OF GOD**, and **HE** also **KNOWS** our shortcomings in our own **MIND**. **HE** takes our **PRAYERS**, which are often **FLAWED** and **MISGUIDED** and **HE STRAIGHTENS THEM OUT** and **INTERCEDES ON OUR BEHALF** with our **HEAVENLY FATHER** with what really needs to be said.

That is a bigger blessing than we can ever know! After all, who among us **KNOWS** the **PERFECT WILL OF GOD** in every matter? Who among us **KNOWS HOW TO PRAY** about everything we hear about? **WHO KNOWS THE MIND OF GOD BETTER THAN GOD?**

The **HOLY SPIRIT KNOWS THE MIND OF GOD**, because **HE IS GOD!** Therefore, **HE IS ABLE** to translate our **PRAYERS** out of the **FLAWED, SELFISH LANGUAGE** we use, into the **PERFECT WILL OF GOD!** That is what genuine, **BIBLICAL PRAYING** in the **SPIRIT** is!

Conclusion

While **CREATION GROANS to be free from the CURSE** and while the **CHILDREN OF GOD GROAN to be free from these BODIES**, the **COMFORTER**, the **HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD**, **GROANS to see the will of the FATHER** done in the world and in our lives.

We are to live knowing that the **HOLY SPIRIT** is actively involved in the process of **AIDING US** as we live day by day! Therefore, we should keep pressing forward in our **SPIRITUAL** journey with the **LORD!** Because the **LORD** has given us the **HELP** that we **NEED** and **HE resides within!**