

Romans 8:19–27

XXIX. Groaning for Glory

A. Creations Groaning - vs 19-22

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

a. *apokaradokia* - intense anticipation:--earnest expectation.

i. lit.– watching with outstretched head

ii. Suggests standing on tiptoes w/ eyes looking ahead w/ intent expectancy

iii. Prefix *apo* adds to intensity

b. Jews familiar w/ God's promise of a redeemed world

i. new heavens and new earth - Is 65:17; 66:22

ii. 100 too young to die - Is 65:20

iii. Carnivores no more - Is 65:25; Isa 11:6-9

c. Creation is in context the non-rational part including animals, plants, and the inanimate aspects of creation

i. angels are not subject to corruption

ii. Fallen angels will be judged

iii. Mankind is spoken to in vs 23-25

d. waits eagerly - *apekdechomai* - to expect fully:--look (wait) foreign

e. revealing - *apokalupsis* - disclosure, appearing, coming, lighten, manifestation, be revealed, revelation. - 1 Jo 3:2

f. of the sons of God - Col 3:4

2. For the creation was subjected to futility, - vs 20

a. *mataiotes* - inutility, transientness; morally, depravity:--vanity.

i. carries the idea of w/o success, unable to achieve a goal or purpose

ii. b/c of man's sin, no part of nature exists as God intended or as originally was, venomous snakes, bugs, carnivores, etc.

b. was subjected - *hupotasso* - indicates that nature didn't curse itself

i. not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope;

ii. Decay, disease, pain, death, natural disasters, pollution will all remain until the one who cursed the creation returns to make it new

iii. Fallen, but still beautiful - Ro 1:20

3. Nature's destiny is inseparable from man's - vs 21

a. because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption

i. b/c of man's sin, creation was corrupted w/ him

ii. *eleuthero* - to liberate, to exempt (from moral, ceremonial or mortal liability):--deliver, make free.

- passive - won't do it itself

- Jesus referred to this as "the regeneration" -Mt 19:28

iii. *douleia* - slavery (ceremonially or figuratively):--bondage.

iv. *phthora* - decay, ruin (spontaneous or inflicted) corruption, destroy, perish. - law of entropy - constant irreversible degradation of matter

b. into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

i. *eleutheria* - freedom (chiefly moral or ceremonial):--liberty.

ii. When believers will be liberated from sin, the flesh, and all humanness - 1 Co 15:51-54; Phil 3:20-21; 1 Jo 3:2

4. For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. - vs 22

- a. **sustenazo** - to moan jointly, experience a common calamity:--groan together.
 - i. refers to a person caught in a dreadful situation that has no immediate prospect of deliverance
 - ii. Used to describe

- the children of Israel during bondage - Ac 7:34

- church leaders dealing w/ immature, unruly believers - Heb 13:17

- b. labors with birth pangs - Ge 3:16

- c. the lifting of the curse - Is 30:23-24; 35:1-7; 2 Pe 3:13

B. Believers Groaning - vs 23-25

1. Not only that, but we also -vs 23

- a. who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, - Eph 1:14; 4:30

- i. believers - Ro 8:9

- ii. the Spirit's work in us - fruit, seeing sin as it really is - Gal 5:22-23

- b. even we ourselves groan within ourselves, - 2Co 5:2,4-5

- i. we have been made spiritually sensitive - Ps 38:4,9-10; Ro 7:14-18

- ii. We can see the manifestations and consequences of sin in and around us

- c. eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.

- i. the adoption, - 1 Jo 3:1

- ii. the redemption of our body. - 1 Co 15:51-54

2. For we were saved in this hope, - vs 24

- a. but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees?

- i. Hope - believing what God has said will happen - future

- ii. Not a reality yet, but is a certainty- Heb 11:1

- iii. Based on God's promise

- iv. We cannot expect to see our glorification in this life

- b. But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance. - vs 25

- i. proof it will happen - Phil 1:6

- ii. Persevering in the meantime - 1 Th 1:3-4; 1 Pe 1:13

C. The Holy Spirit Groaning - vs 26-27

1. Likewise - looking back to the groaning

- a. the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses.

- i. our weakness

- b/c of remaining humanness and susceptibility to sin

- even after salvation

- ii. His help - He supplies us with all that is needed for faithfulness, effectiveness, and protected

- b. Example of how He helps

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

- imperfect perspectives, finite minds, frailties, spiritual limitations

- many times, we don't even know our limitations - Jas 4:3

- ii. but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us

- bringing our needs to God - 1 Co 2:11

- with groanings which cannot be uttered. - vs 26 - beyond human understanding - no words

2. 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. - vs 27; 1Ch 28:9; Ps 7:9; Pr 17:3; Jer 11:20; 17:10; 20:12; Ac 1:24; 1 Jo 5:14