

**The Freedom of the Glory of the Children of God**  
**Romans 8:18-23**  
September 17, 2020

**Review**

Chs 5-8    The gospel and the sure hope it gives

5:1-11    Blessed results of justification

5:12-21    The superiority of the reign of God's grace in the second Adam over the reign of sin through the first Adam

Ch 6        The triumph of grace over the power of sin

7:1-8:17    The triumph of grace over the power of the law

**8:18-39    Assurance of hope**

**The future revealing of the sons of God (18-19)**

*Question:* What is the glory spoken of in verse 18?

“For” connects back to verses 16-17

“the sufferings of this present time”

- Suffering with Christ (17) in this present age

When the sufferings of this present time are placed beside “the glory that is to be revealed to us,” there is no comparison!

- **2 Cor. 4:17** “For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison,”

“the creation”

1. Not the good angels
2. Not the evil angels, nor unbelievers
3. Not believers
4. Refers to all animals, plants, and inanimate things such as the mountains, rivers, plains, seas, and heavenly bodies.

“waits with eager longing”

- **Psa. 96:11–12** “Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;  
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;  
let the field exult, and everything in it!  
Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy”

“the revealing of the sons of God.”

1. We will be revealed with Christ (17)
2. **Col. 3:3–4** “For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.”
3. Our relationship to God as His sons is not currently known by the world
  - **1 John 3:1** See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him.
4. When we are glorified, God will reveal to the world that we are His sons, and we will enter into our inheritance

This glory will infinitely outweigh all our sufferings for Christ’s sake

### **The future liberation of the creation into the freedom of the glory of the children of God (20-22)**

*Question:* Verse 21 says creation will be set free from its bondage to corruption. What will this involve?

**20** “the creation was subjected to futility”

1. After the fall
2. Resulting in creation’s “bondage to corruption” (21)
3. No part of it exists as God created it to be
4. Subjected by God when He cursed it (Gen 3:17)

5. Introduced thorns and thistles (Gen 3:18)
6. Introduced decay, disease, death, and natural disasters
7. Does not deny that creation continues to reveal the Creator and declare His glory (1:19-20)

God subjected creation to futility, with a plan to one day liberate it

The condition of creation is tied to man's condition, since man was given dominion over creation (Gen 1:26-28)

1. When man became corrupt and was cursed, the creation was enslaved to corruption and was cursed
2. When redeemed man will be glorified and his body of corruption raised incorruptible, the creation will be set free from its bondage to corruption

The creation will "obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God"

1. The children of God will be set free from the corruption of indwelling sin and the corruption of the body
2. The creation will likewise be set free

**Is. 11:6** "The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,  
and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat,  
and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together;  
and a little child shall lead them."

**2 Pet. 3:13** "But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells."

**Rev. 21:1** "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more."

**Rev. 21:4** "He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

**Rev. 22:3a** "No longer will there be anything accursed,"

This is why the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God!

**verse 22**

1. Not the pains of death
2. God is preparing to bring forth something new

### **The future redemption of the believer's body (23)**

“who have the firstfruits of the Spirit”

- The first portion of God's salvation blessings, with more to come

“groan inwardly”

1. “in the pains of childbirth” (22)
2. As we suffer with Christ (17)
3. As we struggle against sin
  - **7:24** “Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?”

“as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies”

1. The perfection of our adoption
2. When our body will be set free from its enslavement to corruption
3. **1 Cor. 15:42–49** “So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. Thus it is written, “The first man Adam became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.”

### **Conclusion**

Applications

1. Let this passage direct your thoughts from the sufferings of this present time, and from the effects of the curse, to the infinitely greater glory that is to come
2. Be mindful of why the creation is under futility and corruption
3. Wait eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God, the liberation of creation, and the redemption of our bodies
4. When sharing Christ with unbelievers, be mindful that they have no real answer to the meaning of pain and suffering, but God's word reveals its meaning