

WHEN IN ROMANS: God in Our Suffering

Andy Deane · 2/11/2024 · Romans 8:18-30

Today we'll be reminded that some blessings can only come after a road that has hardship on it. Thankfully, God's grace authors faith in us that is strong enough to endure life's difficult moments.

Our SHOCK in suffering (Romans 8:18-20)

Romans 8:18-20, 18 I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. 19 For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. 20 For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope

- The start of this conversation about suffering is shocking (18)
- The source of suffering may shock you as well (20)

Our HOPE in suffering (Romans 8:21-25)

Romans 8:21-25, 21 that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God. 22 We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. 23 Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. 24 For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? 25 But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

- Our hope is that one day we'll be free from suffering (21)
- Our hope is strengthened with a preview of heaven now (23)
- Our hope requires faith and patience (24-25)

Our HELP in suffering (Romans 8:26-27)

Romans 8:26-27, 26 In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. 27 And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.

- We need help because we are weak and that's ok (26)
- Our help is a person, but not the one you're thinking of (26)
- The Spirit helps us with courage and comfort and closeness (27)

Our TRANSFORMATION in suffering (Romans 8:28-30)

Romans 8:28-30, 28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. 29 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. 30 And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

- God uses it to transform character and circumstance and calling (28)
- Suffering is only an effective tool because of who uses it (29)
- Suffering doesn't just make character better, but Christlike (29)
- God takes our suffering so seriously he took it on himself

“If we ask ‘why does God allow suffering?’ and we look at the cross of Jesus, we still do not know the answer. However, we now know what the answer isn't. It can't be that he doesn't love us. It can't be that he is indifferent or detached from our condition. God takes our misery and suffering so seriously that he was willing to take it on himself.” — [Tim Keller](#)

If you are suffering, please text “coffee” to (951)425-4425 to setup a meeting with one of our pastors.