

Romans 8:15–18

15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.”

16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

Suffering and Glory

Romans 8:18

Romans 8:18 is a great verse of comfort in the middle of Paul’s discussion of the Christian’s suffering. While some may teach that Christians never have trouble or suffering, the Bible never does. This verse is a great summary of the truth about suffering.

I. The Suffering

II. The Glory

I. The Suffering

“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us” Romans 8:18.

A. Remember how Paul left us last time in **verse 17**. He told us, in the context of our inheritance, ***“If children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, [since] indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.”*** Again, we try to comprehend something that we cannot fully understand without the work of the Holy Spirit in us. While Paul stopped on the concept of suffering, and Paul suffered much, he is not negative about the suffering all believers will

experience. ***“[Since] indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.”***

B. Our text today compares our present sufferings with the glory we shall share in Christ Jesus. Our sufferings are not worthy to be compared. Paul pulls out his balance scale to weigh the value of suffering and compares it to the blessing of glory we shall receive together with Christ. He says that our suffering is nothing compared to the blessing that will be revealed in us.

C. Paul fleshed this out in **2 Corinthians 4:17**. ***“For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.”*** Our affliction, the suffering we experience today, produces blessing from God in the life to come.

1. How could Paul call our afflictions and suffering “light” and “momentary?” We are tempted to say, “Surely, Paul didn’t understand our suffering.” Yet, have you considered the catalogue of Paul’s suffering? This is the list from **2 Corinthians 11:23-28**. ***“Are they ministers of Christ?—I speak as a fool—I am more: in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often. From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness—besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches.”***

2. When we look at the suffering and difficulties we encounter in this life, we find our suffering is nothing compared with the trials people in the Bible experienced. If God could help them through their difficulties which put ours to shame, surely, God is more than able to help us make it through. Here’s the point. Paul puts these troubles on one side of his balance scale and they are weightless compared to the

glory we will share with our Lord Jesus Christ. That glory is: ***“an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison,” (NASB).***

II. The Glory

“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.” Romans 8:18

A. Now we understand something about how we suffer, let us try to grasp the glory on the other side of the balance. The difficulty is we do not know what glory is. I like to think of it as the currency of eternity. We don't live in eternity yet and so we cannot understand it.

B. Here are some passages which speak about this glory.

1. Titus 2:11–13 “For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,”

2. Colossians 3:2–4 “Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.”

3. 1 John 3:1–2 “Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.”

C. Although we cannot say what this glory is, we can be assured that when we share it with our Lord Jesus all the difficulties and trials will not matter at all. This glory will far exceed any trouble we have ever experienced. Are we living in view of this reality?

It Will Be Worth It All

Sometimes the day seems long,
Our trials hard to bear.
We're tempted to complain,
To murmur and despair.
But Christ will soon appear
To catch his bride away!
All tears forever over
in God's eternal day!

It will be worth it all
When we see Jesus!
Life's trials will seem so small
When we see Christ.
One glimpse of his dear face,
All sorrow will erase.
So, bravely run the race
Till we see Christ.

It Will Be Worth It All (insert)