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# Romans

**For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; Romans 8:20**

"For" again is used to continue to explain the train of thought which proceeds from Paul's instruction on our glorification. He is now building on what he said in 8:19 - "For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God." Using personification of the creation, he says that it "eagerly waits." This ties back to verse 14. Those who "are led by the Spirit of God, these are the sons of God."

Someday, those who have come to Christ will be revealed in glory. Until that time, creation waits in a frustrated state. Why? Because "the creation was subjected to futility." This was seen in several examples from the Genesis account - the curse of the earth which now brings forth thorns and thistles, the enmity between men and animals, etc. This was done "not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope."

The creation didn't fall because it wanted to or because there was some type of fault in it originally. Instead it fell because of man's sin. All creation came under the curse that was executed upon man. This was done to show humanity that sin exacts an immensely great price. God Himself subjected the creation to futility "in hope." The hope isn't God's hope, but creation's hope. Just as the creation was said to "eagerly wait" it is said here to "hope."

We are being shown from the tip of Paul's pen that creation has submitted to the futility wrought upon it on the account of man's misdeeds. It has fallen in "obedience to that superior power which had mysteriously linked its destinies with man's (Jamieson Fausset Brown Biblical Commentary). The perfection of man coincided with the perfection of Eden. The fall in creation coincided with the fall of man. And the glorification of man will coincide with the restoration of the creation which had once been so gloriously perfect and which will again be in that wondrous state. Great stuff here.

Life Application: The whole creation fell through one man's sin which was done in innocence. Imagine the weight of our sin which is done with knowledge. Don't sin.

### Tragedy in the Garden

Charlie Garrett

The woman was enticed and she ate of the fruit

She passed it on to Adam and he ate as well

He became the second willing recruit

And together they left a sad story to tell

Their eyes were opened to their exposed state

They realized that life in sin just ain't so great

They sewed together figs to hide their shame

And made coverings that just wouldn't suffice

The Lord questioned them about their hiding game

And they realized that sin just ain't so nice

"Where are you?" called the LORD. (Though he already knew)

"I was hiding because I realized something wasn't right

I was afraid to answer, I'm naked ... yes it's true  
And so I hid myself, like a shadow in the night."

"Who told you that you were naked? What is this you did do?  
Have you taken of the fruit which I told you not to eat?"

"It was the women who did it... the one made by You  
She told me of it's yumminess,,, and how it was so sweet."

I thought it would be so good, but I guess I paid the price  
I'm beginning to see that sin really ain't so nice

"Woman, what is this thing that you have done?  
Traded life under the heaven's for life under the sun."  
Oh my LORD it was the serpent. He deceived me and I ate  
And now I'm seeing that sin just ain't so great."

Oh God that we could take it back and undo what we have done  
Life was wonderful under the heavens  
But it's terrible under the sun

What can we do make things right?  
Where can we turn to be healed?  
How long will we be cast from Your sight?  
How long until the grave is unsealed?

I have a plan children, but you'll have to wait

Many years under the sun toiling in the heat  
But I will someday open wide heaven's gate  
When my own Son, the devil will defeat.

I will send my own Son, the devil to defeat.

**...because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. Romans 8:21**

As noted in the preceding verse, not just man, but all of creation came under the curse that was executed upon man. The price and weight of sin is such that it affects not just the sinner but it corrupts everything. The trials, troubles, and distresses of nature are a result of our disobedience. This is the great lesson for man since the fall. But what is fallen will be restored.

There is coming a time of worldly renewal which was seen by the ancient prophets. This is known as the Kingdom Age where Christ will reign from Jerusalem for 1000 years. However, there will still be death during this period and only after that reign will come the final correction of what was lost so long ago.

The promise of restoration is a hope that we can cling to as absolutely certain. What has to be considered through the Bible's words is that it was the devil who deceived man and it was because of this deception that the fall occurred. Without a restoration, the victory isn't truly complete. This is the reason for the dispensations which have been introduced into the stream of humanity. Each has led us through the unfolding of God's plan of this restoration.

In the end, this is a battle in the spiritual realm which is being realized in the temporal realm. John tells us succinctly the main reason for Christ's coming -

"He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil." 1 John 3:8

The devil has wrought his destruction and so Christ has come to destroy what he has wrought. When the destruction is destroyed, then what is left will be as was intended. The final chapters of the book of Revelation detail the glory which lies ahead when "the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption." As Godet says, nature "possesses in the feeling of her unmerited suffering, a sort of presentiment of her future deliverance."

This deliverance from corruption's bondage will be "into the glorious liberty of the children of God." What is translated as "glorious liberty" is the phrase *eleutherian tēs doxēs*, "liberty of the glory." All of creation will be delivered from the pains of corruption. Sin shall be expiated from man and the fallen creation will be glorified into the same liberty that is bestowed upon the children of God.

The End of the Garden of God

~Charlie Garrett

Your sentence is pronounced

In pain you shall give birth

Your husband will rule over you

And he shall till the unforgiving earth

Your pains in childbirth will be increased

Indeed your labor will be most severe

But when from your womb the child is released

Again the joy in your heart will appear

And Adam, because you listened to your wife  
And from the forbidden fruit you did eat  
I shall give you a burdensome life  
I've cursed the ground beneath your feet

For your crops you will till and the soil will resist  
From it thorns and thistles will readily grow  
But the things on which you need to subsist  
Will take careful work with a plow and hoe

Someday you'll return to that ground  
As a seed planted in the soil  
And if by faith you live your life  
There shall be a reward for your time of toil

Now I will clothe you with garments of skin  
And send you out of this garden of delight  
Cherubs will faithfully guard the way back in  
Until My Son makes all things right

And when He does you can come back in  
Not because of anything you have done  
But His blood alone will cover your sin  
Such is the wondrous work of my Son

Hallelujah and Amen!

Life application: What the devil has fouled up through deception, Christ will fully reverse through truth and righteousness. In this world of woe there is a better hope. Fix your eyes on Jesus and the glory which lies ahead.

**For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. Romans 8:22**

Again for the forth time in this section the verse is introduced with "for." This is then being tied back to verse 21 which said that the "creation was subject to futility" and that it "will be delivered from the bondage of corruption." He now explains, based on this knowledge that "we know..." In other words, what he is stating should be taken as a universal axiom - anyone can simply look around and tell.

"We know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs." There are earthquakes, there are floods, there are hurricanes, there are famines, and there are plagues. There is unnatural death, stars explode, meteors crash into the earth, etc. All of these things, and so very many more are evidently not something one would think of as "normal" when thinking of an ideal world.

And yet, we have the intuition that there is an ideal that should exist. This is the stuff of dreams, legends, plays, and movies. It is something universally found in the heart and hope of man. This creation shouldn't act as it does, but it in fact does. And these "groans and labors with birth pangs" continue "together until now."

This was true at Paul's time and it continues to be true 2000 years later. The world which is hoped for has not yet arrived. There is a universal fault which will be corrected as he previously stated, "for we know" that things aren't as they should be.

Life Application: When you see a tsunami kill 200,000 people, you know that it isn't something that should happen. Something has caused it. Is it a mean and vindictive God? Is it a God who can't handle crises as they arrive? Or, is it that there is a fault which was caused by our own rebellion? If the last is the case, will God correct it? We know the answer because we have the instruction manual to the problem in our possession. When crises arise, let us use the situation wisely and share the good news of Jesus Christ. No matter what the calamity, small or large, we can use it for His glory.