

Romans 8:19–25

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

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

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

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

23 Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.

24 For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees?

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

Waiting for the Revealing of the Sons of God

Romans 8:19-25

“The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.” (Deuteronomy 29:29)

All the suffering we will endure in this present age will be nothing compared to the glory which shall be ours. We know this because of God’s great plan for the end of the age. Paul supported this assertion about the glory that will be revealed in the Children of God by giving us a glimpse of what God will do.

I. The Revelation of the Sons of God (vs. 19-21)

II. Expectation of Creation (vs.22-23)

III. Our Hope (vs. 24-25)

I. The Revelation of the Sons of God (vs. 19-21)

“For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.” (Romans 8:19-21).

A. First, Paul told us about the current state of the present world. ***“For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.”***

1. The Greek here is expressive. ***“For [even the whole] creation (all nature) waits expectantly and longs earnestly for God’s sons to be made known” (Amplified Bible)*** The Greek paints the picture of the boy craning his neck expectantly looking out the window for his father to come home. J. B, Phillips says, ***“the whole creation waits on tiptoe.”***

B. What is Creation waiting to see? ***“The unveiling of the sons of God.”*** If you go to any hospital, you will find many people there. Some are children of God and some are not. You cannot tell because the sons of God are not yet revealed.

C. Why is creation expectantly looking? Creation looks because God Himself subjected creation in futility and hope because of sin. ***“Then to Adam He said, ‘Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the herb of the field. In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread’” Genesis 3:15-17*** While God subjected creation, He subjected it in hope. Creation will become what it was intended to be when Christ returns.

II. Expectation of Creation (v.22-23)

“For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body” (Romans 8:22-23)

A. In verses 19-21 the Apostle described the fact of creation's eager anticipation of the revelation of the Sons of God. In verses 22-23, he explored the expectation in greater detail.

B. Before we look at this text, let us see how this fits with two other passages of Scripture.

(1) Revelation 21:1 "Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea."

(2) We also read in 2 Peter 3:10-11: "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness?"

C. How can creation groan expectantly if the earth will be burned up? Paul provided the answer. It anticipates the revelation, because like us creation shall be transformed. It will be changed into the new heavens and new earth.

D. The pains creation feels are birth pains. Birth pain is real pain but when the baby comes the pain is forgotten, swallowed up in the joy over a new life. In like manner there is sorrow, but the joy that is coming will far outstrip it. We, too, the children of God, long for the Lord's return because we have a foretaste of what is to come, "the first fruits of the Spirit." We have the Spirit of Adoption who lives in us and He is actively conforming us into the image of Christ. This means He is preparing us for heaven and making us hungry for it.

III. Our Hope (V. 24-25)

"For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance." (Romans 8:24-25)

A. What do we do in the meantime? We hope. What is hope? If hope is fixed on God, it embraces at once the three elements of

- (1) expectation of the future,
- (2) trust,
- (3) and the patience of waiting.

When we hope we expect God to work. We trust God will do what He said He will do. Finally, we wait patiently for God to do it. Hope is not uncertainty. Rather it is knowing God will do and being willing to trust Him and wait for Him to do it in His time.

B. We hope because we cannot see it yet. One Day our hope will be made sight. There seems to be another truth about hope. Hope does not make us sit on our hands and wait. We wait and work expectantly. Do you remember ***Titus 2:11-13? “For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all kinds of men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus” (My Translation).*** Hoping informs our living.

C. Hoping motivates our serving too.

1 Corinthians 15:58 “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.”

How is your hoping?

1 John 3:1-2 “See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

“Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.” (1 John 3:2)

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