

“Groaning For Glory”
Part 2 ~ Romans 8:23-25

Introduction:

1. Please Turn Back With Me In Your Bibles This Morning:
 - To Romans 8:
 - Where - We Have Been Exploring:
 - Some Of The Great Blessings:
 - Of Being “Justified By Faith”:
 - In The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - One Of Those Blessings:
 - Is That True Believers:
 - Have A Special Hope:
 - To - One Day:
 - Share In The Glory Of Jesus!
2. This Is What The Apostle Paul Describes For Us:
 - Back In 8:17 - Because:
 - When You Become:
 - One Of God’s “Children” - “Then”:
 - You Also Become:
 - “Heirs; Heirs Of God, And Joint-Heirs With Christ; If So Be That We Suffer With Him, That We May Be Also Glorified Together!”
3. If This Is True:
 - Then, How Are We To Handle:
 - All The Suffering & Struggles We Face:
 - In Our Lives Now:
 - Even As God Uses Them:
 - To Prepare Us:
 - For Glory?
 - Well - In 8:18 - Paul Gives Us The Answer:
 - Because - We Too Can Now:
 - “Reckon That The Sufferings Of This Present Time Are Not Worthy To Be Compared With The Glory Which Shall Be Revealed In Us!”
 - So - As A Christian:
 - There Is Absolutely No Comparison:
 - Between:
 - Your Present Suffering:
 - And Your Future Glory!
4. And That Is Why:
 - Three Times In Romans 8:
 - In Verse 22:
 - Which We Looked At Last Week!
 - In Verse 23:
 - Which We Will Look At This Week!
 - And - In Verse 26:
 - Which We Will Look At Next Week!
 - There Is A “Groaning” Taking Place!
 - A Great Sigh:
 - Even In The Midst Of:
 - These Long & Trying Days:
 - Because We Know:
 - There Is So Much More & So Much Better:
 - Yet To Come!
5. Your Future Glory:
 - If You Are God’s Child:
 - Is So Great:
 - That - In Verse 22:
 - Even “The Whole Creation Groaneth And Travailth In Pain Together Until Now!”

- But - As God's Own Child:
 - You Groan For Your Glory:
 - Even More!
 - Which Is What We Will Focus On This Morning:
 - From 8:23-25 - "And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body. / For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? / But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it!"

6. All Throughout These Verses:

- And Even:
 - All Throughout This Chapter:
 - And Really:
 - All Throughout This Book:
 - And The Bible Itself:
 - There Are Many, Many Gospel Promises:
 - Made To Those Who Believe In And Receive Jesus Christ:
 - As Their Savior From Sin!
 - In 2 Peter 1:4, They Are Described As "Exceeding Great And Precious Promises!"
 - Is It Any Wonder Then:
 - Why God's Own Children - As Well As:
 - God Own Creation:
 - Would Groan & Sigh:
 - For Them?
 - Since There Really Is So Much More & So Much Better:
 - Yet To Come?

* And So - This Morning - We See From These Verses That - We Will Groan When We - First:

1. *Accept Those Gospel Promises!*

- And - We Accept Those Promises:
 - By Faith - Which Is What We Find In:
 - The First Part Of 8:23:
 - "And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit!"
 - Here - The Apostle Paul:
 - Speaks On Behalf Of:
 - All Those Who:
 - Along With Him:
 - Have Been "Justified By Faith" In Jesus Christ!
 - So - Any & All:
 - Of Those "Exceeding Great And Precious Promises" Are Reserved:
 - Exclusively For:
 - Those Who "Have Obtained Like Precious Faith" With Paul:
 - And With All True Christians!
 - So - Before We Go Any Further:
 - Have You Accepted Those Promises:
 - For Yourself?
 - Have You Turned From:
 - Your Own Sin - And:
 - Turned To & Are Trusting In:
 - Jesus - As Your Savior?
 - If Not - The Only Groaning:
 - You Will Experience:
 - Is The Groaning:
 - In Suffering!
 - But - When You Believe In Christ:
 - You Will Then Be Able To:
 - Groan For Glory!
 - Because:

- You Can Then - Accept Those Promises:
 - With Fruit!
 - Even As Paul Describes The Children Of God:
 - As Those - "Which Have The First-Fruits Of The Spirit!"
 - In The Old Testament:
 - The "First-Fruits" Was A Special Offering:
 - Given **To** The Lord:
 - **By** God's People:
 - Every Year - From The Very First & Best Part Of Their Harvest!
 - And - It Was Even Considered To Be:
 - "A Pledge Of The Entire Harvest!"
 - The Children Of Israel Gave:
 - With Expectation:
 - Of More Blessing To Come, Based On God's Promise!
- Well - Here - This "First-Fruit" Is:
 - Given **By** The Lord:
 - **To** His People!
 - And - The Gift Is:
 - The Holy Spirit Of God Himself!
 - And - What A Gift He Is!
 - As We've Already Seen In This Chapter!
 - In 8:9 - The Holy Spirit:
 - Resides **With** Us - Even **In** Us:
 - Because He Indwells:
 - The Children Of God!
 - In 8:10-11 - The Holy Spirit:
 - Regenerated Us:
 - And Gave Us Life - Because:
 - He Is The Spirit Of Life!
 - In 8:14-15 - The Holy Spirit:
 - Receives Us:
 - And Brought Us Into The Family Of God - Because:
 - He Is The Spirit Of Adoption - Who Leads Us Day By Day!
 - And - In 8:16 - The Holy Spirit:
 - Reassures Us:
 - And "Bearth Witness With Our Spirit, That We Are The Children Of God!"
 - And Yet - Here - The Holy Spirit Himself:
 - Is Described As Just:
 - The "First-Fruit!" (Singular)
 - Given - **By** God - **To** Us!
 - This Means That:
 - Not Only Is He:
 - The Supreme Blessing:
 - He Is Also:
 - The Source Of All The Blessings To Follow!
 - In A Sense:
 - He Is Like:
 - **IE:** The Appetizer Before A Meal!
 - But - What An Appetizer!
 - Imagine What The Dessert Of Glory Is Going To Be:
 - For The Children Of God!
 - And That Is Why - When You:
 - By Faith Alone - Receive & Accept:
 - All Of Those Gospel Promises:
 - You Will Keep Groaning For Glory!
 - Because - Through The Holy Spirit - You Know:
 - That The Best Is Yet To Come!

* But Then - Second - We Will Also Groan - As We:

2. ***Anticipate Those Gospel Promises!***

- And - We Anticipate Those Promises:

- By Waiting For Them:

- Which Is What We Find In The Rest Of:

- 8:23 - "Even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body!"

- As We Saw Back In:

- 8:19-22 - All Of God's Creation:

- Groans - While It Waits For:

- Its Own Redemption & Restoration!

- But Now - In 8:23:

- All Of God's Children:

- Groan - While We Wait For:

- Our Own Redemption And Restoration!

- To "Wait" Here Means:

- That We Anticipate:

- With An Eager Expectation:

- What Is To Come!

- **IE:** Paycheck!

- Paul Puts It This Way:

- In Galatians 5:5 - "For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith!"

- So - What Are We Waiting For?

- Our Finalized Adoption!

- "Waiting For The Adoption!" (8:23)

- Now - Haven't We Already Been:

- Adopted Into God's Family:

- When We Receive Christ By Faith?

- Yes - Absolutely!

- Which Is Why We Can:

- 8:15 - "Cry, Abba, Father!"

- But - There Is Another Part:

- To Our Adoption:

- That We Are Waiting For!

- **IE:** Perhaps It Can Be Described As Being Under The Divine Guardianship Of The Holy Spirit - Until We Are Finally Taken Home To Live In Our Father's House Forever!

- Or - Perhaps - It Is Like When A Minor Child Becomes An Adult - And Experiences The Full Recognition And Full Reception Of Privileges As The Father's Heir!

- Either Way:

- Part Of That Finalized Adoption Is:

- Our Full Redemption!

- "The Redemption Of Our Bodies!" (8:23)

- Now - Haven't We Already Been:

- Redeemed By Christ:

- When We Turn To & Trust In Him?

- Again - Yes - Absolutely!

- Even As We Were Told Back In:

- 3:24 - "Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus!"

- But - There Is Another Part:

- To Our Redemption:

- That We Are Waiting For!

- When - At The "Day Of Redemption" - Even Your:

- Mortal And Corruptible Body - Will Be Glorified - And Take On Incorruption And Immortality!

- And Then - Your Redemption:

- Will Be Complete!

- And This Is Why - As You:
 - Keep Waiting For & Anticipating:
 - Those Gospel Promises:
 - Of Final Adoption & Full Redemption:
 - You Will Keep Groaning For Glory!
 - Because:
 - Right Now - You Realize:
 - That - In Your Current Condition:
 - You Are Prone To:
 - Homelessness!
 - Hurt!
 - Humiliation!
 - Even - Unholiness!
- In Fact - We Will Groan:
 - When We Remember That:
 - We Are Not The Sons & Daughters:
 - That We Should Be!
 - Didn't We Hear Paul's Own Groan:
 - 7:24 - "O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?"
- But - We Will Also Groan:
 - When We Remember That:
 - God - In His Grace:
 - Is - Right Now - Making Us Into:
 - The Sons & Daughters:
 - What We Ought To Be!
- But - Until Then:
 - Keep Waiting! Keep Anticipating!
 - Because The Best Is Yet To Come!

* So Then - Third - We Also Groan - As We Are:

3. Assured Of Those Gospel Promises!

- And - We Are Assured Of Those Promises:
 - Because They Are Our Hope!
 - Even As We Find In:
 - 8:24 - "For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?"
 - In This Verse - The Apostle Paul Explains To Us:
 - What Biblical Hope Is All About!
- Biblical Hope:
 - Is Not Like:
 - How We Often Use Hope!
 - As In A Wish!
 - Wishful Thinking!
 - No! Hope For The Christian:
 - Is Not An Attempt:
 - To Bottle Up Smoke!
 - Instead - It Is Like:
 - An Anchor!
 - "An Anchor Of The Soul, Both Sure And Steadfast!" (Hebrews 6:19)
 - And So - Here:
 - We Are Given:
- The Prospect Of Hope!
 - As It Says In The Beginning Of:
 - 8:24 - "For We Are Saved By Hope!"
 - Can Also Be Translated:
 - "In Hope!"
 - Of Course - We Know That:

- A Person Is Saved By Faith!
 - But - What Is That Faith In?
 - Hope!
- The Gospel Is Good News:
 - Because The Gospel Offers:
 - Hope For Sinners!
 - It Offers You Hope & Assurance:
 - Concerning Your Past:
 - And Your Pardon:
 - From Sin!
 - It Offers You Hope & Assurance:
 - Concerning Your Present:
 - And The Eternal Possession & Presence Of God:
 - As His Child!
 - It Offers You Hope & Assurance:
 - Concerning Your Future:
 - And Those “Exceeding Great And Precious Promises!”
 - Even As We Are Told In:
 - Titus 1:2 - “In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began!”
 - And - The Gospel Offers You Hope & Assurance:
 - Concerning Your Savior!
 - Because The Person Of Jesus Christ Himself:
 - Is Your Hope!
 - Because - As We Are Told In:
 - Titus 2:13 - We Are - “Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ!”
 - And We Are “Saved” – **By & In & With:**
 - **All Of This *Hope!***
 - And We Still Are!
 - But - We Still Have To Wait For:
- The Possession Of Hope!
 - As We See In:
 - 8:24b - “But hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?”
 - You See - True Hope:
 - Keeps Looking Forward!
 - Keeps Its Eyes On The Prize!
 - Because - It Would Be Silly:
 - To Keep Hoping For Something:
 - That You Already:
 - Possess:
 - In Its Entirety!
 - **IE: I Remember** - As A Young Man - “Hoping” For A Good & Godly Wife! I Believed & Took To Heart
 - Proverbs 18:22 - “Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the LORD!” - Well - Now That God Gave Me Such A Wife - It Would Be Silly For Me To Keep “Hoping” For That!
- And - This Is Why:
 - Even Though You Have Assurance:
 - In Your Hope:
 - As A Christian:
 - You Still Groan!
 - Because - There Is Still More, Yet To Come!
 - The Eternal Fulfilment:
 - Of God’s Promises:
 - To You! And:
 - The Eternal Fellowship:
 - In God’s Presence:
 - With You!
- I Think This Might Be:

- What King Solomon Had In Mind:
 - When He Wrote Proverbs 13:12:
 - “Hope deferred maketh the heart sick!”
 - **IE:** A Lot Of Children Feel This Way As Christmas Gets Closer!
 - “But when the desire cometh, it is a tree of life!”
- Oh, Beloved:
 - Keep On Groaning:
 - For The Day:
 - When You Will Be Able To Eat:
 - From The “Tree Of Life” Itself!
 - Keep On Groaning:
 - In Hope - And:
 - With Assurance:
 - That The Best Is Yet To Come!
- Even - Jesus Christ Himself!
 - Again - Titus 2:13 - “Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ!”

* But Then - Fourth - We Groan - Even As We:

4. Abide In Those Gospel Promises!

- And - We Abide In Those Promises:
 - With Patience And Endurance!
 - As We See In:
 - 8:25 - “But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it!”
 - So - When:
 - You Have A Right Understanding:
 - Of Hope:
 - You Will Keep On Waiting!
 - But How?
- “With Patience!”
 - **IE:** The Christian Life Is Often Pictured In The Bible As A Journey Or Even As A Race! And God Gives You Hope - To Help You - To Keep On Going - No Matter What Obstacle Gets In Your Way - Whether They Are Outside / External Obstacles Or Inside / Internal Obstacles!
 - You Anticipate – The Hope Of Your Glory:
 - Even As – You Abide & Endure:
 - By God’s Grace & Through His Strength:
 - The Storms Of Suffering!
 - This Is Something:
 - The Apostle Paul:
 - Has Already Pointed Out For Us!
 - In 2:7 - We Are To:
 - “By patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life!”
 - And - In 5:3-5 - We Find That We Can:
 - “Glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; / And patience, experience; and experience, hope: / And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us!”

Conclusion:

1. And - This Is Why:
 - As You Patiently Wait:
 - And Abide Through:
 - The Trials & Temptations:
 - Of This Life:
 - You Can Still Groan For Glory!
 - Because Of What We Saw:
 - Back In 8:18:
 - Because - “The sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the

