



Romans 8:18-25

OUR HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

The word translated “revealing” is **apokalupsis**, a removal of a covering—as when some wonderful statue has been completed and a veil thrown over it, people assemble for the “unveiling” of this work of art. It will be as when sky rockets are sent up on a festival night: rockets which, covered with brown paper, seem quite common and unattractive, but up they are sent into the air and then they are revealed in all colors of beauty, and the multitude waiting below shout in admiration. Now the saints are wrapped up in the common brown paper of flesh, looking outwardly like other folks. But the whole creation is waiting for their unveiling at Christ's coming, for they are connected with Christ, one with Him, and are to be glorified with Him at His coming. —William R. Newell

In Romans 6-8, Paul focuses on our sanctification in Christ—our progressive transformation into the image of Christ, being set apart from the world and reflecting more of His character.

This transformation can not be accomplished in our own strength or through trying to follow the rules of the law. Instead, under the reign of grace, we know who we are in Christ, reckon it to be true, and yield our bodies to the Spirit.

The Spirit works from the inside out—regenerating us, indwelling us, leading us, changing our mindset and desires, and confirming our identity as beloved children of God.

The Spirit’s path to glory takes us through times of suffering.

OUR FUTURE GLORY FAR _____ OUR TIMES OF SUFFERING IN THIS PRESENT LIFE (8:18).

Our Present



Our Future

For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory. (2 Corinthians 4:17)

Paul holds that the believer must expect sufferings in this present age. There is suffering that is the direct result of our sinning and there is suffering that we endure for Christ’s sake, suffering that arises directly from our Christian profession in a world that rejects Christ. But beyond that, there is suffering that arises simply because we are in this imperfect world. Paul is realistic; there is no reason to think that Christians will be free from troubles in this present life. It is important, therefore, that they learn how to bear them. —Leon Morris

Consider. Greek, *logizomai*, “to reckon, count, calculate; the process of careful reasoning which arrives at a conclusion.”

God will make the feeblest and filthiest of us into a god or goddess, a dazzling, radiant, immortal creature, pulsating all through with such energy and joy and wisdom and love as we cannot now imagine, a bright stainless mirror which reflects back to God perfectly (though, of course, on a smaller scale) His own boundless power and delight and goodness. —C. S. Lewis

**OUR FUTURE GLORY IS EAGERLY _____
BY ALL OF CREATION (8:19-22)**

- Creation was subjected to _____
and is in bondage to _____
(cf. Genesis 3:17-19; Isaiah 24:5).



- Creation will be _____ and will reveal all of its glory alongside the glory of the children of God (cf. Isaiah 11:6-9; Amos 9:13).
- Creation is _____ and laboring with birth pains.

**OUR FUTURE GLORY IS DEEPLY _____
WITHIN OUR OWN SOULS (8:23-25)**

- We have the _____ of the Spirit (Eph. 1:13-14).
- We are eagerly waiting for the redemption of our _____.

For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. (2Cor 5:4-5)

- In the meantime, we _____ with a confident hope.

Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. (Heb. 12:1-2)

The whole creation is on tiptoe to see the wonderful sight of the sons of God coming into their own. —J.B. Phillips

Eager expectation. Greek, *apokaradokia*, “a stretching forth of the head as an indication of an expectation of something from a certain place.” (Vine)

Waits. Greek, *apekdechomai*, “an intense yearning and eager waiting with the attention being withdrawn from all else” (Wuest)

The law that entropy always increases holds the supreme position among the laws of Nature. ...If your theory is found to be against the 2nd law of thermodynamics I can give you no hope; there is nothing for it but to collapse in deepest humiliation.
—Sir Arthur Stanley Eddington

Everything here is blighted, and subject to storm, or to decay, or to sudden death, or to calamity of some sort. It is a fair world, but there is the shadow of the curse over it all. The slime of the serpent is on all our Edens now.
—Charles H. Spurgeon

Groan (Greek, *stenazo* from *stenos* = narrow or contracted as when one is squeezed or pressed by circumstances), “an inward feeling of sorrow” (Vine).

If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world. If none of my earthy pleasures satisfy it, that does not prove that the universe is a fraud. Earthly pleasures were never meant to satisfy it, but only to arouse it, to suggest the real thing. —C. S. Lewis