

## Present Groaning Future Glory

### Scripture

“The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 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. 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. 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. 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 first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. 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.” (Ro 8:16-25 NKJV)

### Commentary

The sufferings of this present time do not compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. As an heir of the kingdom, we should expect to suffer as Christ suffered. In fact, Paul uses the conditional clause, “If indeed we suffer with Him” as he describes those who are joint heirs with Christ.

The suffering is not persecution from others. It might manifest itself in that fashion on occasion, but that is not the primary focus. Rather, the suffering comes from the influence of the world and the flesh. This is seen in the contrast between the flesh and the first fruits of the Spirit. Some have taken this idea of first fruits as meaning those Jews who had first been saved. However, the context lends itself to the former as the Spirit is the one who causes us to look forward to the adoption, the redemption of our bodies. It is because of the Holy Spirit we cry out Abba Father. His Spirit bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.

The one who hopes in the redemption of his body suffers because of his present condition. Like the creation groaning you too will groan if indeed you are in the battle against sin. If you are at ease in this world, are you still hoping? Why would you hope for what you have?

Friends do not be lulled to sleep by the flesh. It will cry all is well as it ravishes your sin-laden soul. It will promise you life and give you death. Do not believe the lies; persevere to the end! Remember the groaning of this present time is not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.