


Day 1

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.


*Present Sufferings and Future Glory*

<sup>18</sup> I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.

Q1. To what was Paul referring when he wrote, “the glory that will be revealed in us”?

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 *that will be revealed in us:* “That shall be disclosed to us; or of which we shall be the partakers in heaven. The usual representation of heaven is that of glory, splendor, magnificence, or light; compare Revelation 21:10; Revelation 21:23-24; Revelation 22:5 (↓). By this, therefore, Christians maybe sustained. Their sufferings may seem great; but they should remember that they are nothing in comparison with future glory. They are nothing in degree. For these are light compared with that "eternal weight of glory" which they shall "work out." 2 Corinthians 4:17 (↓). They are nothing in duration. For these sufferings are but for a moment; but the glory shall be eternal. These will soon pass away; but that glory shall never become dim or diminished; it will increase and expand forever and ever.” [©1834, *Notes on the Bible* by Albert Barnes. <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/romans/8-18.htm>]

**Revelation 21:10** [English Standard Version (ESV)]

And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God,

**Revelation 21:23-24** [English Standard Version (ESV)]

<sup>23</sup> And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. <sup>24</sup> By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it,

**Revelation 22:5** [English Standard Version (ESV)]

And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

**2 Corinthians 4:16-18** [The Message (MSG); a paraphrase]

<sup>16-18</sup> So we're not giving up. How could we! Even though on the outside it often looks like things are falling apart on us, on the inside, where God is making new life, not a day goes by without his unfolding grace. These hard times are small potatoes compared to the coming good times, the lavish celebration prepared for us. There's far more here than meets the eye. The things we see now are here today, gone tomorrow. But the things we can't see now will last forever.

## Lesson 12: Romans 8:18-27


Q2. How would you explain the phrase “the glory that will be revealed”? In other words, how will God reveal that “glory”?

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### Day 2

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

**19** The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed.

Q3. How would you describe “creation”?

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Q4. Who are the “sons [children] of God? (See Romans 8:21 ↓)

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Q5. When might they “be revealed”?

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 The commentators Charles Ellicott and the Cambridge Bible for Schools provided the following thoughts about the phrases that comprise verse 19:

**Eager expectation:** “A single word in the Greek, and a very striking one. It means, literally, a straining forward with outstretched head, just as we might imagine the crowds outside a race-course straining over the ropes to catch a sight of the runners; an eager, intent expectation. The same word is used once again in the New Testament (Philippians 1:20).”

**Creation:** “the whole world of nature, animate and inanimate.”

**Waits:** “Another strong word, ‘waits with concentrated longing and expectancy.’” [©about 1880, Ellicott’s Commentary for English Readers, edited by Charles J. Ellicott. <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/romans/8-19.htm>]

**Revealed:** “[That is] the ‘glorification together with Christ;’ and ‘the revelation of glory upon them,’ (Romans 8:17-18.) They shall at length be [‘revealed’ or] ‘manifested’ to one another, and to the universe, in their true character as the children of the King Eternal.” [©1882 and later, *The Cambridge Bible for Schools and Colleges* by Cambridge University Press. Text Courtesy of BibleSupport.com. <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/romans/8-19.htm>]


### 2 Corinthians 3:18 [NIV-1984]

And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

## Lesson 12: Romans 8:18-27

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### Day 3

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

<sup>20</sup>For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup>that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God.

Q6. Verse 20: How would you describe “creation”? (Is this answer the same as the answer you provided to Question 3 ↑ following verse 8:19?)

Yes? }  
No? } If no, what changed?

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Q7. Verse 20: Please identify “the One who subjected it”.

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**John 1:1-3** [NIV-1984]

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup>Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

Q8. Verse 20: How might “creation [be]... subjected to frustration”?

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**Genesis 3:17-19** [NIV-1984]

<sup>17</sup>To Adam he [God] said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat of it,' "Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. <sup>18</sup>It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. <sup>19</sup>By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return."

## Lesson 12: Romans 8:18-27

Q9. Verse 21: How is “creation... [in] bondage to decay”? (According to science/human knowledge: will the sun ever run out of energy? Will the earth – as we know it today – last forever? Thinking about history, do governments last forever? Do our earthly bodies live forever? Do our cherished pets live forever?)

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Q10. Verse 21: How has “creation... [been] liberated from its bondage to decay”?

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Q11. Verse 21: How could “creation... be... brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God”?

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### Day 4

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

<sup>22</sup> We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.

Q12. What is Paul attempting to describe through this metaphor “creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth”?

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The commentator Albert Barnes offers the following explanations as he dissects this verse:  
**Groaning:** “All is united in a condition of sorrow. The expression denotes mutual and universal grief. It is one wide and loud lamentation, in which a dying world unites; and in which it has united. . .

## Lesson 12: Romans 8:18-27

**Childbirth:** “This expression properly denotes the extreme pain of [childbirth]. It also denotes any intense agony, or extreme suffering; and it means here that the condition of all things has been that of intense, united, and continued suffering; in other words, that we are in a world of misery and death. . . . every age has experienced the repetition of the same thing.

**Right up to the present time:** “. . . It has been the characteristic of every age. . . [The Apostle Paul] simply [refers] to the fact that it suffers, as an illustration that the condition of the Christian is not singular and special.” [©1834, *Notes on the Bible* by Albert Barnes. <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/romans/8-22.htm>]

<sup>23</sup> Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.


Q13. How would you explain, “firstfruits of the Spirit”?

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**Exodus 23:16, 19** [NIV-1984]

<sup>16</sup> "Celebrate the Feast of Harvest with the firstfruits of the crops you sow in your field. . . <sup>19</sup> "Bring the best of the firstfruits of your soil to the house of the Lord your God.

 “Because first-fruits signify the best things of their kind, some think that the apostles, and such as possessed the most excellent spiritual gifts, are spoken of in this passage. But as the privileges described Romans 8:24-26 equally belong to all, it seems more probable that the apostle speaks of believers in general, who had the gifts of the Spirit bestowed on them as first-fruits, or as the earnest of those greater virtues and spiritual endowments, which they shall enjoy in heaven.” [©about 1800, *Commentary of the Old and New Testaments* by Joseph Benson. Text Courtesy of BibleSupport.com. <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/romans/8-23.htm>]

Q14. To whom is Paul referring when he wrote, “we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit”?

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Q15. Do you ever wish that you could experience the Lord’s Second Coming right now?

Yes? } Why?  
No? }

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Q16. What does “redemption of our bodies” mean to you?

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## Lesson 12: Romans 8:18-27

### 1 Corinthians 15:42-56 [NIV-1984]

<sup>42</sup> So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; <sup>43</sup> it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; <sup>44</sup> it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.

<sup>45</sup> So it is written: "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam, a lifegiving spirit.

<sup>46</sup> The spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and after that the spiritual. <sup>47</sup> The first man was of the dust of the earth, the second man from heaven. <sup>48</sup> As was the earthly man, so are those who are of the earth; and as is the man from heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. <sup>49</sup> And just as we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, so shall we bear the likeness of the man from heaven.


<sup>50</sup> I declare to you, brothers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. <sup>51</sup> Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed — <sup>52</sup> in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. <sup>53</sup> For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. <sup>54</sup> When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory." [From Isaiah 25:8] <sup>55</sup> "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" [From Hosea 13:14] <sup>56</sup> The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.

 The commentator Albert Barnes provides this explanation for the phrase "redemption of our bodies":

"The complete recovery of the body from death and corruption. The particular and striking act of the adoption in the day of judgment will be the raising up of the body from the grave, and rendering it immortal and eternally blessed. The particular effects of the adoption in this world are on the soul. The completion of it on the last day will be seen particularly in the body; and thus the entire [person] shall be admitted into the favor of God, and restored from all his sins and all the evil consequences of the fall. The apostle here speaks the language of every Christian. The Christian has joys which the world does not know; but he [or she] has also sorrows; he sighs over his corruption; he is in the midst of calamity; he is going to the grave; and he looks forward to that complete deliverance, and to that elevated state, when, in the presence of an assembled universe, he shall be acknowledged as a child of God." [©1834, *Notes on the Bible* by Albert Barnes. <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/romans/8-23.htm>]

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## Day 5

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

<sup>24a</sup> For in this hope we were saved. <sup>24b</sup> But hope that is seen is no hope at all.

<sup>24c</sup> Who hopes for what he already has?

Q17. What is "this hope"?

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## Lesson 12: Romans 8:18-27

Q18. How would you explain verse 24<sup>b</sup>: “But hope that is seen is no hope at all”? (Hint: see verse 24<sup>c</sup>)

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**25 But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.**

-  This verse emphasizes that when we pray to God, He will answer us sometimes with “Wait”.
- We humans are an impatient bunch. We like things done on our schedule. Don’t be late. Hurry-up. Pronto. Quick. Faster. Lickety-split. On the double. Now!
- We truly feel the pressure of ‘time’ in this world.
- Yet, God has His own plan, and He knows how to weave a perfect, beautiful tapestry for each of our lives if we only trust Him. God’s tapestry for us gets muddied, complicated, drab, knotted, or holed when we try to help Him outside of His will.
- There are Old Testament stories that highlight these attempts to help Him; one such example is Abraham & Sarah (Abram and Sarai): Abraham & Sarah’s maidservant Hagar begat a son named Ishmael, who is Abraham’s first-born son and was born as a result of trying to help God (Genesis 16); and then Abraham & his wife Sarah begat a son named Isaac, who was born as a result of God’s promise (Genesis 21). Judaism/Christianity calls Abraham ‘Father’ through the lineage of Isaac; Islam calls Abraham ‘Father’ through the lineage of Ishmael.

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### Day 6

-  Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

**26 In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. 27 And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.**

Q19. Who are the “saints”?

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## Lesson 12: Romans 8:18-27

Q20. What are the promises in verses 26 and 27?

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(2)

(3)

(4)

Q21. What do these verses 26 and 27 mean to you? Are you encouraged by the promises?

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