

ROMANS SERIES SIXTEEN
THE AGONY AND THE ECSTASY
Dr. Roger Barrier
Romans 8:17-30; 1 Jn. 3:2-3; Rev. 21:3-4

In this passage Paul addresses the two pivotal themes of suffering and glory. Everything is moving toward a great day of restoration. But that day is not yet here—and until it comes, we must put up with all sorts of difficulties, hardships and sufferings. The Glory will not come without the groan. Our hardships are not much when we compare them with the Glory that awaits us in Christ! The indwelling Holy Spirit is not only our internal guarantee that all will come out well—He is the first installment of the Glory to come.

Do dogs go to Heaven? See Romans 8:19-21.

WE ALL ARE GROANING (Romans 8:17-18, 23).

God has the power to fix the world, and He does care the suffering. He is working out an eternal plan to redeem and restore it all. Genesis describes how sin entered the world and corrupted it. Revelation describes how God will reestablish it all back.

Over and over the Bible links two things which we would usually not link together—“hurts” and “hallelujahs”. For example, see 2 Corinthians 4:17-18.

“Don’t resent tears as intruders; treat them as friends. They come to cultivate us.”

WE ARE GLORYING (Romans 8:18)!

Our groanings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be ours in Christ.

What Is The Glory? Let’s examine just a few dimensions:

1. Christ Likeness (1 John 3:2-3)
2. No More—No more pain, no more sorrow, no more death (Revelation 21:3-4)
3. Golden Crowns (1 Corinthians 9:24-27)

The Victors Crown: perseverance (2 Timothy 2:5; Revelation 3:11)

The Crown of Glory: pastors (1 Peter 5:4)

The Soul Winners Crown: evangelism (Philippians 4:1; 1 Thessalonians 2:19)

The Crown of Righteousness: loving His appearing (2 Timothy 4:8)

The Crown of Life: martyrs crown (Revelation 2:10; James 1:12)

4. Overcomer Rewards

Revelation 2:7: To him who overcomes, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.

Revelation 2:11: He who overcomes will not be hurt at all by the second death.

Revelation 2:17: To him who overcomes, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give him a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to him who receives it.

Revelation 2:26-28: To him who overcomes and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations ... just as I have received authority from my Father. I will also give him the morning star.

Revelation 3:5: He who overcomes will ... be dressed in white. I will never blot out his name from the book of life, but will acknowledge his name before my Father and his angels.

Revelation 3:12: Him who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will he leave it. I will write on him the name of my God.

Revelation 3:21: To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne.

The Glory is not revealed to us. It is revealed in us.

NATURE IS GROANING (Romans 8:19-22).

The world never sinned. The creation suffers from the curse of Adam.

We're in a groaning creation – distress of nations – impossibility of agreement – different languages – political conflict – cry of pain from the slaughter of animals- trees combat disease and insects – flowers struggle to exist among weeds – hospitals filled with sick and dying- our creation is groaning.

Will World War three begin in Lebanon--soon?

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS GROANING (Romans 8:23, 26-27).

How often in our groanings we do not know how to pray. Our feelings are so deep and intense that we are unable to express them in words. Fortunately the Holy Spirit goes deep within our inner spirits and communicates those feelings to God as prayers.

What's the Spirit asking for? That's explained in Romans 8:28-30.

The Holy Spirit is the "First Fruits" of the coming Glory. He is the *arrabon* of 2 Corinthians 5:5: the "deposit", the "wedding ring", the "guarantee," that all the rest of the Glory will soon follow.

ASK ME ABOUT THE GLORY—we have moped around in the groanings far too long!