

Romans 8v18-39



Read Romans 8v18-39

1. What question does verse 17b raise, and how does Paul answer it in verse 18?

We are expected to share in Christ's suffering in order to also share in His glory

2. What is creation waiting for, and why (vv. 19–22)?

Creation is waiting to be liberated from bondage to decay and into the glory of the children of God. It is a reminder that creation is under suffering as well as a reminder and a preparation for the new creation and the glory of Christians. It should remind us that suffering is part of the process.

3. What are Christians waiting for, and how are we to wait for it (vv. 23–25)?

We are waiting for glory, when Christ returns. We are to do so in hope and understanding that suffering is part of the process.

4. What does the Spirit do, and how does he do it (vv. 26, 27)?

Groans for us when we don't know what (or how) to pray. The Spirit is who makes us capable to praying, and praying rightly at all times, but the topic of suffering is deeply encouraging for us to know that the Spirit is for us, even when we cannot be!

5. What is meant by the 5 stages by which God fulfils his great purpose in Christians (vv. 28–31)?

God:

Foreknew - Before the beginning of time God 'Foreknew' His people, He knew about you and me, before even the earth began to form!

Predestined: He 'predestined' them, before the beginning of time he chose believers to belong to him, such is the long and deep love of God for us.

Called: Having chosen them in time, 'he called them'. There comes a point in time when those who are predestined, hear the gospel and God calls them irresistibly into his family.

Justified: God declares them right in his eyes

Glorified: those whom he justified he also glorified. Given in the past tense because it is certain, but his whole point in the chapter is that glory is to come in the future, for it outweighs our suffering

6. How does Paul answer the law court challenge that asks if any charge can be made to stick against God's chosen ones (vv. 31–34)?

Nothing at all can stick!

7. What is Paul's main point in verses 35–39?

We cannot be separated from Christ, we cannot lose our salvation, we cannot avoid receive our glory that is to come.

Application

In what ways do we actually experience 'the sufferings of this present time'?

In what ways do we see futility, frustration and decay in creation?

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How can we encourage one another to wait with patient endurance under pressure?

Pray for one another.