

# SERMON NOTES

By Pastor John Paul Miller

## *In The Grip of God's Grace*

The Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Romans

### Romans 8:18-22 - "Groaning for Glory"

When you become a Christian you have a *New Position*, a *New Life*, and a *New Relationship* (vs. 17). But, even though we are: God's children, heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ, we still suffer with Him before we are glorified together with Him (vs. 17b).

The glory awaits us; the suffering is now.

Paul points out two more blessings that we have as Children of God.

- A New Hope (vs. 18-25)
- A New Help (vs. 26-27)

The suffering and glory mentioned at the end of verse seventeen becomes the theme throughout this section.

First – the suffering and glory of God's creation

Second – the suffering and glory of God's children

#### I. The Suffering and Glory of God's Creation (vs. 18-22)

*Romans 8:18-22 "For I reckon 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 creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now."*

- Study the Text!
- Notice that Paul makes three statements about **creations past, future and present:**

**Creations Past** – it was subjected to frustration or vanity (vs. 20)

When? – At Man's Fall (Genesis 3)

What?

Illustration from the Book of Ecclesiastes

(vs. 20) New Testament Commentary on the  
Book of Ecclesiastes

By Whom? – God

Why? – In Hope (there's a new world coming)

**Creations Future** – it will be liberated (vs. 21)

a) Bondage of corruption

Illustration – The Second law of thermal dynamics

The second law of thermodynamics is an axiom of nature regarding the directional flow of heat in relation to work and which accounts for the phenomenon of irreversibility in thermodynamic systems. The most common enunciation of second law of thermodynamics is: "Heat cannot of itself pass from a colder to a hotter body."

b) Creation will be liberated

In the Old Testament, the 'Messianic Age' is a picture of the Kingdom Age

A Christian World View:

1. The world is God's creation
2. The world is not what God created it to be.
3. this world will one day be renewed

Illustration – It leads me to think further to the way C.S. Lewis developed the idea in the first of his Narnia Chronicles, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. You may recall that in the first section of that book, when Narnia was under the power of the wicked Witch of the North, the land was in a state of perpetual winter. Spring never came. But when Aslan died and rose again, a picture of Christ's resurrection, the ice began to melt.

**Creations Present** - it groans (vs. 22)

Illustration: Child birth

Matthew 24

The Jewish day started at sundown.