I. Introduction: Your glory in the last day will far outweigh your present suffering. v. 18

A. Though we are sons of God, we suffer in the present age. v. 17b-18a 7:18,24 9:19-22  
   John 15:18 Luke 6:22 II Ti. 3:12 (persecution, the flesh, the fallen creation)

B. The glory of our future inheritance far surpasses our present tribulations. v. 18
   2. Our future glory infinitely transcends present hardships. II Co. 4:17 I Pe. 4:13
   3. Our true nature as God’s children will be revealed. Co. 3:3-4 I Jo. 3:2 I Pe. 1:5
   4. The practical use of eschatology (the doctrine of future things/prophecy): hope.  
      Heb. 11:10,13-16 12:2

C. The rest of this section elaborates on our hope: A threefold groaning for glory.
   1. The creation groans, awaiting our revelation in the last day. v. 19-22
   2. We groan as we eagerly await our final redemption. v. 23-25
   3. The Holy Spirit groans as He intercedes for us in prayer. v. 26-27.

II. A Christian view of the Cosmos. v. 19

A. How does the unbelieving world view the cosmos (our environment)?
   1. The past:
      a. The cosmos is self existent and has evolved by chance.
      b. Humankind is simply an advanced animal which is part of the cosmos.
      c. The cosmos is neither good nor bad. It simply is.
   2. The present:
      a. The world is in its natural and normal state.
      b. Life is evolving and advancing.
      c. What problems there are with the environment are man’s fault.
   3. The future:
      a. The cosmos is running down.
      b. One day earth as we know it will end: asteroid, ice age, solar event, etc.
      c. Secularism offers no hope or meaning.

B. The Christian view of the cosmos.
   1. The past:
      a. God created the cosmos with beauty and order. Genesis 1 1t
      b. Man was given dominion over the world. Gen. 1:26-28 Ps. 8:5-8
      c. Because of man’s fall the world is under God’s curse. Gen. 3:17-19
   2. The present:
      a. The world is in an unnatural (fallen) state.
      b. The cosmos, while still reflecting much of its original glory (1:20 Ps. 19:1f), is  
         in a state of decay and disorder because of the curse.
      c. The problems with our environment are because of God’s judgment on  
         man’s sin, and because of mankind’s poor stewardship of creation.
   3. The future.
      a. One day the earth as we know it will end.
      b. The cosmos will be renewed and glorified.
      c. The Scriptures offer us a most blessed hope!
III. The creation groans as it awaits our glory. v. 19-22

A. Who is anxiously waiting and groaning? Ps. 96:12 98:8 Is. 35:1 55:12 Lu. 19:40

B. Why is the creation groaning? It is under God’s curse. v. 20-21a
1. Creation’s fate is bound up with ours. 5:12 Gen. 3:17f
2. Who subjected the creation to futility (vanity)?
4. The creation is frustrated because it falls far short of what it is intended to be.
5. Yet in spite of futility and corruption, there is hope of renewal! 16:20 Gen. 3:15

C. The creation will be liberated and glorified when we are glorified. v. 21
1. Our revelation will signal the renewal of the creation. II Pe. 3:10-13 Mt. 24:35
2. God’s redemption of the fallen world would not be complete without a perfected creation: the new heavens and the new earth. 16:20

1. Every effect of the curse will be removed. Rev. 22:3 Isa. 11:6-9 35:1-10
2. There will be a new creation of great glory. Isa. 65:17 66:22 II Pe. 3:13 Eph. 1:10
3. God will receive the praise which is His due for His glorious creation.
4. Is Paul speaking here of a millennial kingdom?

E. At the present time the creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth as it awaits the day of the revealing of the sons of God. v. 22 Mark 13:8 John 16:21-22
2. The creation groans and travails.
   a. Because of the present futility and corruption.
   b. Because it yearns for the glories to come.
3. The present travails are reminders of the good which is to come.
4. God will hear these groans and will answer. Acts 7:34

IV. Concluding Applications.
A. God alone can and will renew the creation to make it worthy of Himself.
B. Christians are the key to saving the environment.
C. If the irrational creation longs for that day, how much more should we! He. 9:28 Ga. 5:5 Phil. 3:20 Mt. 13:43
D. For some the pains of the new creation will be the pains of death. Isa. 13:8 I Th. 5:3

Discussion Questions for Family Worship
1. Why musts the children of God suffer? v. 18
2. How does eschatology (Bible teaching about the end times) help us to endure suffering?
3. What are the 3 “groans” in verses 19-27
4. What is the difference between the way a Christian and a secular humanist view the past, present and future of the universe?
5. Why does the creation yearn for the revelation of the sons of God?
6. How has the curse affected the creation?
7. When God cursed the world what hope did He offer?
8. Why must the creation be restored?
9. What will the new heavens and the new earth be like?
10. Why are the travails of childbirth a good picture of the present state of creation?
11. Why are Christians the key to saving the earth?