

**I. Introduction and review.**

- A. We yearn (groan) for glory.
- B. For the child of God, future glory outweighs present suffering. v. 18
- C. A threefold groaning for glory. v. 19-27
  - 1. The creation groans awaiting the revelation of the sons of God. v. 19-22
  - 2. We groan as we await our final redemption. v. 23-25
  - 3. The Holy Spirit groans as He intercedes for us. v. 26-27

**II. We groan as we await the glory to come. v. 23-25**

- A. How does our present experience of the Spirit relate to our groaning? v. 23a 8:9
  - 1. What are first fruits? Ex. 23:19 Deut. 18:4 Neh. 10:35 Pr. 3:9
  - 2. The Spirit is the first fruits of the glorious blessings God has for us.
  - 3. The best is yet to come. Eph. 1:13-14 II Co. 1:22 5:5
- B. Haven't we already been adopted and redeemed? v. 23b *The already and the not yet.*
  - 1. There is a sense in which we have already been adopted as God's sons. 8:15
  - 2. Yet we will not fully experience our sonship until we receive our inheritance.
  - 3. We have already been redeemed through the work of Christ. 3:24
  - 4. Yet we will not be fully delivered until Christ returns and our bodies are glorified like His. 8:11 Eph. 4:30 I Co. 15:50f Phil. 3:20
- C. Now we wait in hope. v. 24-25
  - 1. We have been saved, we are being saved, and we shall be saved! v. 24a 5:9
  - 2. We wouldn't need hope if we were already enjoying every blessing of salvation. II Co. 4:16-18 5:7 Heb. 6:17-19 11:1 I Th. 5:24 Jo. 6:37 I Jo. 3:2
  - 3. We wait both eagerly and patiently. v. 25 8:19 I Pe. 1:13 Titus 2:13 II Pe. 3:12 Ex. 2:24 Heb. 11:9-10,13-16
- D. We have good reason to groan.
  - 1. In this life we suffer. 8:18
    - a. We are strangers and aliens in a hostile world. John 15:18 II Ti. 3:12
    - b. Our bodies are wearing out. II Co. 4:16 5:2,4
    - c. We daily struggle against our own sinful flesh. 7:18,24 8:13 Ps. 38:4-5,9-10
  - 2. We have so much to look forward to! Col. 1:27 Mt. 13:43
    - a. All of God's enemies will be vanquished and put away forever. 16:20 Rev. 21:8 22:15
    - b. We shall have glorified Christlike bodies free from infirmity. v. 21 Phi. 3:20-21 Rev. 22:3 I Co. 15:42-44,49-57
    - c. We shall dwell in a glorified and perfect creation. II Pe. 3:13
    - d. We shall be sinless, like Jesus. 8:29 I Jo. 3:2
    - e. We shall see Jesus face to face and dwell with Him forever. Re. 22:4-5
  - 3. God's people have always groaned, awaiting the day of redemption. Acts 7:34 God is attentive to the groaning of His people. Ex. 2:23-25

### **III. The Spirit groans as He intercedes for us. v. 26-27**

- A. In what sense are we weak? v. 26a**
  - 1. We suffer because of the world and our flesh.
  - 2. We do not know how we ought to pray. II Co. 12:7-10 Phil. 1:19-26
  
- B. The Spirit intercedes for us. v. 26b**
  - 1. Most of us realize the Son intercedes for us at God's right hand. 8:34 He. 7:25
  - 2. Did you know that the indwelling Holy Spirit also intercedes for us? Jo. 14:16-17
  - 3. He makes up for the deficiencies of our prayers.
  
- C. What are the Spirit's unutterable groanings? v. 26b**
  - 1. Paul is *not* speaking about the gift of tongues.
    - a. The gift of tongues was a public revelatory gift only given to some in the early church. I Co. 12:30
    - b. The Spirit intercedes for every believer.
  - 2. Does the Spirit Himself intercede (groan) for us apart from our own prayers?
  - 3. Or does the Spirit intercede through our groaning (prayers)? v. 15-16 Eph. 6:18
  
- D. The Spirit is our perfect intercessor. v. 27**
  - 1. He effectively communicates our needs to the Father. v. 27a I Co. 2:10  
I Sam. 16:7 I Chron. 28:9 Ps. 139:1-2 Jer. 17:10
  - 2. He intercedes according to the will of God. v. 27b
  - 3. God hears and answers His prayers for us, beyond all that we ask or think .  
8:28 Eph. 3:20
  - 4. These privileges are exclusively for the children of God.
  
- E. Application:**
  - 1. Even when we are weak and don't know how to pray, the Spirit intercedes for us.
  - 2. We can be confident that we will receive God's best for us. 8:28 Eph. 3:20
  - 3. Why pray if the Spirit is already interceding for us?

### **IV. Concluding applications.**

- A. For what do you groan?**
- B. God's children groan for heaven!**
- C. This hope enables us to endure the present suffering. v. 18 Heb. 12:2 Ps. 77**
- D. One day our groaning will end. Titus 2:13-14**

### **Discussion questions for family worship.**

- 1. What are the three groans in Romans 8:19-27?
- 2. How do these three groans relate to the truths in verse 18?
- 3. How do the first fruits of the indwelling Spirit make us groan all the more?
- 4. How is it that we have already been redeemed and adopted and that we will in the future experience redemption and adoption. v. 15,23
- 5. What is the place of hope in the Christian life? v. 25-26
- 6. Why do we groan in the present life?
- 7. Why do we need the Holy Spirit's intercession? v. 26a
- 8. In what sense does the Spirit groan? v. 26b
- 9. Why is the Holy Spirit the perfect intercessor? v. 27