

# Romans 31 – Groaning for Redemption

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Romans 8:18-25

## Prologue: Spirit's Control of Flesh

- Only by “putting on the *new nature* can one access the power of the Spirit who does God’s will, not ours
  - The Spirit is not under our control but responds directly to Christ and to the Father
  - His control of the flesh allows us to mature in Christ
  - Maturation in Christ is not obtained by wishing but by knowledge (Bible) in the image of Christ (by the Moral Law); this is the life Paul refers to constantly

## Prologue: Why Do Believers Doubt?

- Believers doubt because they quench God’s Spirit depriving themselves of His eternal witness
  - God’s Spirit will not continually strive against our unbelief (1Co 6:3)
  - Believer’s who refuse the Spirit’s *peirasmoi* quench His guidance, striving against Him to their own harm (Ep 4:30, 1Th 5:19)
  - These remain *babes* in the Word (1Co 5:11-13)

## Prologue: Heirs of Christ Provided...

- Another reason believers remain babes in the Word
  - Though heirs with Christ, they will not suffer for Him as He suffered for them (He 5:7-10)
  - The world hates you because it hates Christ (Jo 5:18)
  - Blessed are you when men revile you for Christ (Mt 5:10-12)
  - Peirasmoi from the world are expected since we are the scent of death to them who reject God's truth; yet, we resist only because the Spirit empowers us (2Co 2:16, 1Th 4:12-19)

## Triumph and Parenthesis

At each major point Paul transitions with a doxology of God, Trinity, then a parenthesis to move the reader to the next point of his presentation (Ro 8:15-17)

Doxology: Spirit bears witness with our spirit to cry out "Abba, Daddy"

Parenthesis: Heirs with Christ *provided* we suffer with Him to *later* be glorified with Him

## Sufferings: The Next Point

- Paul must explain the supposed contradiction between being saved from sin and the ongoing *suffering* believers endure both in the world and in the flesh
  - Theodicy: Why is there suffering? Paul explains the why
  - Paul does not ignore or dodge the hard questions; he takes them head-on unlike many teachers today
  - Paul begins with the "big" picture

## The Heavens Declare... (Ps 19:1-4a)

- Paul, like the Psalmist, anthropomorphizes Creation to drive home the teleological argument that God exists because of the orderliness (design) of Creation
  - Paul began his discussion from the teleological position stating that God is clearly perceived in Creation (Ro 1:18-20)
  - Man perverted this revelation of God by worshipping elements of Creation as god(s) thus condemning himself

## How Sin Affected Creation

- Now, Paul picks up this thread by stating that the vastness, beauty and complexity of Creation pales beside the *groaning* of Creation since man's sin
  - Adam: When Adam sinned entropy entered the world: change from order to disorder; hallmark of sin in lives
  - Cain: With Cain's sin, who gained strength from the ground, man would receive diminishing returns from his efforts; law of unintended consequences (Ignorance)

## Creation Groans...

Paul has Creation *groaning* under burden of man's sin  
Creation was not made for God but for man  
Man's sin not limited to himself but reverberated throughout Creation: Symbiotic relationship  
Creation, which began as good, has been in childbirth waiting for the final redemption of man, and itself (Ge 1:31)  
This process of redemption was hidden from people until taught by the Holy Spirit through Paul (1 Co 2:14)

## Glory of Creation is *Nothing*...

- Paul uses Creation as a comparison because man can think of nothing greater than the universe
  - All the troubles of this present material creation, since sin, is *nothing* compared to the vastness of eternity future
  - Travailing of this Creation is *nothing* compared to the New Heavens, lit only by Christ's glory
  - Heavenly bodies present now only for marking time, unnecessary in eternity future (Co 1:34-19)

## Creation Not Alone in Groaning

- Paul segues from Creation to believers who also groan awaiting their full redemption; i.e., their new bodies
  - Believers have the *firstfruits* of their salvation, seal of the indwelling Holy Spirit, but still suffer in the world
  - Like Creation, believers await their final redemption in *hope* believing the promises of God has made
  - Christ, as *firstfruit*, revealed the truth of bodily redemption and our adoption as sons of God (ICo 15:20-28; Titus 3:3-7)

## What is The Full Mission?

- Christ, via Paul, answers why there is suffering
  - Christ mentioned He had sheep other than Jews (Jo 10:16)
  - Christ's mission was not just to die for sin, as He did
  - He will remove every accusation Lucifer has brought against God; the reason for the Dispensations
  - He will triumph over all principalities and powers until even Death, separation from God, is vanquished (ICo 15:55-56; Ep 6:12; Col 1:36-17; 2:13-15)

## The Bigger Picture – Empirical

### Creation (κτίσις ktisis)

God created to nurture man to salvation  
(Ro 12:13-16)

Managed by angels (Job 38:4-7)

Submits to God though groans awaiting renewal

### World (κόσμος kosmos)

○ Satan's system fosters sin and rebellion vs. God  
(Da 7:1-8; Ro 12:17-31, 11-12)

○ Managed by demons (Ep 6:12)

○ Rages against God though controlled by Him (Lk 8:22-25)

## The Bigger Picture – Salvation

### Saved

○ God will not stop until all He has called are saved  
(Ep 3:10)

○ Believers shine into world the gospel of God (2Co 6:3-6)

○ All believers enter New Earth by grace (Ro 21:1-5)

### Lost

Lost do not want God but love their sin unto death  
(Jo 3:19; Ro 3:10-18)

Those of the Darkness hate the Light (Jo 1:1-5)

Sinners consigned to Lake of Fire by works (Ro 20:11-15)

## Definition of Hope

Paul gives succinct definition of hope, related to faith  
(Ga 5:5)

If you possess what you long for; it is not hope

If you do not possess what you long for; that is hope

Then he gives the purpose of delayed complete redemption: development of endurance (ὑπομονή hypomone) [Some translations incorrectly read: patience]

Fruit of the Spirit (Ga 5:22-23)

## Suffering Persists Because...

- Suffering entered the *world* because man did not rest in the hope that God would give knowledge as needed
  - Sin is the source of evil and God gives sinners the *freedom* from Him they demand
  - The Dispensations show how each accusation Satan brought against God was/is false and removed
  - The testimony of believers in all ages is a witness against the accusation that God delights in punishment

## Epilogue: Creation in Groaning

- Paul segues from Creation to believers who also groan awaiting their full redemption; i.e., their new bodies
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## Epilogue: Salvation Picture

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## Lost Man's Scientisms

Lost mankind misses the truth of Creation because they have perverted science into scientism of evolution

Based on false assumption that observed processes do not and have not changed: steady state (2Pe 3:4-6)

This allows them to eliminate God as a nonsensical biblical belief system from a teleological perspective

Climate change belies their incoherent belief system which they reshape into another scientism for control

## Christians Abandon Science

- Science reinforces the truth of God as it relies on logical, reasonable, knowable and replicable processes
  - Scientisms based on belief systems governed primarily by rejection of truth
  - Critical Theory is the philosophy of scoffers (1Pe 1:22-27)
  - Immature Christians embrace the world's scientisms to appear wise, substituting the foolishness of the world for God's wisdom: rejecting the foolishness of the Gospel (1Co 1:28-31)