

GLORY IS GREATER THAN CURSE

Sunday, December 27, 2020 — Romans 8:18-30: Stand Alone Sermon – Thomas Morgado

CONTEXT:

Thomas R. Schreiner argues: Division existed between Jewish and Gentile Christians in Rome, which explains why Paul focuses on

1. the guilt of both Gentiles and Jews,
2. the role the law plays in God's purposes,
3. the place of Israel in God's plan (since many Gentiles were being saved), and
4. the matter of clean and unclean foods.

NOTICE: Paul wanted to unify both Jewish and Gentile believers in Rome under his gospel. By embracing his gospel together, the Roman churches would serve as a launching pad for the proposed Pauline mission to Spain.¹

- Letter was written in 55-58AD² to the Roman Church. Emperor Nero rules Rome.
- Persecution is social and physical.

INTRODUCTION:

Cuba in the 50's was comparable to the United States in the 50's.

Our passage today brings up two incomparable things.

ROMANS 8:18

English Standard Version (ESV)

¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

Main point: Future glory > Present suffering

Paul reminds us of these four subjects in order to help us see how the future glory we will experience is incomparable to the suffering we experience here.

1. He reminds us of: The Curse

ROMANS 8:19-23

English Standard Version (ESV)

¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. ²³ And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

What is the curse?

- The result of our sin.
- It has caused all the problems of 2020 and before. (Genesis 3:14-19)

What has been affected?

- All of creation.
 - Creation has been subjected to the destructive and corruptive nature that our sin has brought.
- Why does the Bible bring this up?
 - Universal experience
 - Christian Experience

¹ List of sources located within bibliography of sermon manuscript.

2. He reminds us of: The Hope

ROMANS 8:24-25 English Standard Version (ESV)

²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

and future. (Matthew 16:21)

3. He reminds us of: The Spirit

ROMANS 8:26-27 English Standard Version (ESV)

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because^[g] the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

Earlier in Chapters 7- 8, Paul spoke of two things which can cause us weakness.

1. Our difficulty with sin and the temptation to live by the flesh.
2. The curse and all the difficulty that it brings to us physically and on creation.

The Spirit does not merely move our hearts to a state of hope. He also helps by communicating our requests for us.

4. He reminds us of: The Plan

ROMANS 8:28-29 English Standard Version (ESV)

²⁸ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good,^[h] for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

Three ways that this text hints at how God is in control and sovereign:

1. God subjected creation to futility
2. The Spirit causes Christians to grow inwardly and eagerly for adoption.

3. God intercedes for us in our prayers as a means of accomplishing his will.

ROMANS 8:30 English Standard Version (ESV)

³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

Therefore, if he is in control, we have no reason to fear that his plan and promises will not be accomplished.

Romans 8:17 (Verse prior to our current passage)

¹⁷ and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

- The temptation to question God's control or goodness towards us grows during trials/problems.
- The text implies that difficulties and trials are promised for the Christian.

Conclusion:

- This present suffering, is not worth comparing to the future glory.
 - We can trust that God will accomplish his good and glorious plan.