

Romans 8:18

## Our Sufferings Dwarfed by Christ's Suffering and Glory in Union with Us

**Monday, August 28, 2023 • Read Romans 8:18**

*Questions from the Scripture text: What two things from v17 does v18 now set against each other? To what time does suffering belong? To what time does believers' glory belong? Where (in whom!) will this glory be revealed?*

**What can make our present suffering "light and momentary" to us?** Romans 8:18 looks forward to the midweek sermon. In this verse of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **our present sufferings become light and momentary by consideration of Christ's own suffering for us and coming glory in us.**

**Infinite suffering at the cross.** Our own experienced suffering (v18a) is not the infinite suffering. The Lord Jesus endured that suffering on the cross, a suffering as great as God's glory (cf. 1:18, 23; 3:23, 25). It is His giving Himself to be united to us through our faith in Him that makes His suffering the propitiation of the glory-sized wrath that was against us. And it is our union with Him that means that He continues to suffer with us (cf. v17).

Dear Christian, let the phrase "of this present time" (v18a) take your thoughts back to the precious suffering of a former time. It was the glory of God that you had despised (cf. 1:23) and of which you had fallen short (cf. 3:23). Only one as great as God's glory could suffer as greatly as your sin required (cf. 3:25). How great was Jesus's suffering! How great is His glory! Your sufferings are too great for you, but bring them and stand them next to His suffering, that you may enjoy the encouragement of seeing them dwarfed.

**Finite, present suffering.** By comparison to Christ's suffering at the cross, the suffering that we experience is finite/light and momentary (cf. 2Cor 4:17a). And it is further lightened and sweetened by the fact that that we do it together with Him (v17).

There was a time when you did not believe in the Lord Jesus. Even then, He helped you. Even then, He sustained you. But the sufferings of that time did not have the sweetness of knowing His sharing in the suffering by virtue of your union with Him. Now, the sufferings "of the present time" come with the sweetness of a present life that is shared with Christ. This has lightened the sufferings that belong to the "present time" (v18a) for believers. And in "the future time," there is no suffering at all for us!

But there is one more thing that makes us see it as small: comparing it to the glory that will be revealed in us.

**Eternal, weighty glory.** Christ's glory will be revealed to all of the creation on the last day. But v17 has just said an amazing thing: we will be glorified together with Him! His glory will be revealed not only in Himself, but also in us (v18b). In us, who had been made like Him in our souls at death. In us, who will then have been made like Him in our bodies at the resurrection. In us, who share this glory not just for a moment, but for unending ages.

What a glory will be revealed in us (v18b)! How very worth it are the momentary sufferings, which are themselves even sweetened by going through them together with Him!

What are you suffering right now? To Whose suffering is your suffering incomparably small? How can you make use of the greatness of Christ's suffering in the past, and Christ's sharing His life with you in the present, to help you see your suffering in a better light? How are you using your future glory with Him to help think this way?

*Sample prayer: Lord, thank You for so joining us to Christ that we suffer together with Him and will be glorified together with Him. Grant unto us the ministry of Your Spirit to convince us of the lightness of our suffering and the eternal weightiness of our glory to come in Christ, through whom we ask it, AMEN!*

**Suggested songs: ARP130 "Lord, From the Depths to You I Cried" or TPH231 "Whate'er My God Ordains Is Right"**

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Romans, chapter 8, verse 18. These are the words of god. For i consider. That the sufferings of the present time. Are not worthy to be compared. With the glory, which shall be revealed. In us. So far the reading of god's inspired and In there and twerk. Well, we've just heard something about our present suffering in verse 17, that Um, sweetens it to us and lightens it for us.

And that is our suffering is something that we go together. Uh, go through together in union with christ. Uh, remember. We are thinking tryinly about the application of our adoption to us and The spirit bearing witness with our spirit, That we are children of god and this wonderful love.

Of the holy spirit to agree with us. Not only does he make our hearts call god father, but then he speaks to our hearts. And agrees with the cry that he is brought out of our hearts that we are god's children and he testifies for us even, of course, before God, The spirit knows the mind of god and god force.

Um, Here's and receives the testimony of the spirit and he says that we are his children but the father also loved us. And applies or adoption to us, by making us heirs. So if children or since children then heirs And, He has bequeathed to us as a state, which is to say himself the triune god that we might know and belong to the father and to the son to the holy spirit.

Delight in each person of the godhead a door. Each person have fellas with each person even as God himself. Has had these delights these pleasures within himself from all eternity, so that he needs nothing and all of creation added nothing to him at all. So great as the inheritance of the father gives us, As he applies, our adoption to us in his love.

And then the sun. In order for us to become heirs of god, The one who is the rightful here, the only begotten Had to be willing. To bring us into union with himself. Because it's not like jesus, can be disinherited, that would be wicked. God would not do that.

So, the only reason, the only way for us to be made heirs is if the lord jesus is willing to bind himself to us and us to himself. And we would be joint heirs. The jesus christ. So we will inherit with him. And the new heavens and the new earth given to the lord jesus.

That will belong to us and joint proprietorship with jesus. Almost would be blessed for me except it's god. Who told us And we don't have to wait. To do things jointly with christ. Right now, we suffer. But we suffer with him. And that sweetens our suffering with us, the lord jesus.

Has done the great suffering and that's what brings us to verse 18. When he says for i consider that the sufferings of this present time. Are not worthy to be compared with the glory, which will be revealed in us. There has only ever been one suffering. That could be compared to that glory.

And it is the suffering of our lord. Jesus. On the cross. You remember what we heard earlier? And the book of romans That the wrath of god is revealed against all unrighteousness and ungodliness of men who did. What, although we knew him, we did not glorify him. So he comes into chapter 3 and he is described how we have been unrighteous, and we have been ungodly, and we have not glorified him, and it says, we have fallen short of the glory of god.

Meaning we owed him glory. And we were created for his glory but we have despised and sinned Against his glory. And so, we needed a propitiation, we needed an atonement, we needed someone who could bear wrath. That was as great as the glory of god. Because our guilt is, as great as the glory of god against which we have sinned.

And what did he say? In chapter 3, he said That god put forth exhibited jesus like the language of the courtroom exhibit. A Jesus christ. A propitiation. Someone who is this great. And therefore who's suffering, could be as great. As the glory of god. And so he's done with that suffering.

And even in his enthroned state on high, He is so sympathetic with us. So joined to us gives us to live our life. So in union with him, That he suffers with us, we suffer. Together with him. We are joint sufferers with him. To be as, as literal. As we can here.

So that even when Steven and others were persecuted. By soul. Jesus was persecuted with them. You would say Saul Saul? Why are you persecuting me? And so, The sufferings of the present time are not worthy. To be compared with the sufferings of jesus at the cross. There are finite are sufferings are finite.

Our sufferings are momentary. You remember the way he puts it? Uh, second corinthians 4. A momentary light afflictions. One second Corinthians 4 vers. 17. And then the eternal weight of glory. And that's the glory, which will be revealed in us, not just to us. It'll be revealed to us.

You know, second Corinthians 4:17 says Uh, but here in Romans, 8:18, it's talking about a glory that will be revealed in us. Because we don't just suffer together with jesus and we're not just going to inherit together with Jesus joint, sufferers joint inheritors. But we are also jointly glorified with him.

That's what the end of verse 17 said. And so, there is this marvel. That is greater than any other marvel and all of creation. How can anything compare If we are going to be glorified with the glory of the sun, If those whom he justified he also glorified. Why?

Because what he had predestined us for was not merely to be forgiven. But to be conformed to the image of the sun, that he would be the firstborn among. Among many brethren. And so, it's not just That if we get through this suffering one day, there's great glory that we'll see and experience.

But it's this suffering that we are going through right now. As part of what he is using to conform us to jesus. So that we will be the glory. In christ. That the creation experiences. And we'll get. To that next week. Lord dwelling. But how small our suffering becomes.

And even how sweet. By virtue of union with him. And how desirable after away? After a manner? By virtue of its usefulness. And producing his glory conforming us to his glory within us. I don't know. All of what you're suffering, you know, many of you are suffering to some extent.

Don't know what your experience of it is. Took the lord, the spirit, right? This truth on your heart. And give you to know what you have in jesus. So that you will see the suffering that he suffered and said it's not. Birth comparing to that. And you'll see that he's with you together in your suffering now, and you say, Well, it's rather light and momentary when you put it that way.

You see what he's using to using it to produce and you and you say, Path. That is so worth it. And you see what you sell enjoy. And be a display of in the last day, the glory of jesus. And you say, yeah. The sufferings of the present time.

Are not worthy. Of being compared to that.

That's the word that you would do that. So we do ask you oh god that your spirit would write on our hearts history. So, that not only would be those would we be those? That who glorify you as god? But that we would be those who are thankful. Pray that you would impress us with jesus, We pray that you would make.

The truth about the glory that is being produced in us. Not just to be theological facts or even future historical facts. But realities that are experienced by hope. Where we may rejoice. Now, in a reality that is to come By hold of our hearts, this way by your word.

Give us faith in the lord jesus to have eyes and heart for him. But we ask it in his name. Amen.