

Monday, September 4, 2023 • Read Romans 8:19–22

Questions from the Scripture text: Whose earnest expectation does v19 begin talking about? In what manner is this earnest expectation waiting? For the revealing of whom? What had been done to the creation (v20)? What say did the creation have in this? In what did the One Who did it bring it into subjection? What was the hope in which He subjected it—from what will it be delivered? Bondage to what? Into what will it be delivered? What sort of liberty? Whose liberty? Whose children are they? But how much of the creation does what, currently (v22)? Until when has this continued?

What is the point of the creation's existence and groaning? Romans 8:19–22 looks forward to the midweek sermon. In these four verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **the point of the creation's existence and groaning is to stir up desire for the glorification of God's children.** The creation was originally to be ordered and governed under the dominion of man (cf. Gen 1:26–28). Thus, the creation was to be witness to man, who was created in knowledge, righteousness, and holiness. As man conducted himself well in it, its beauty would be harnessed to love God and glorify other men.

But then man fell into sin, and the creation was cursed for his sake (cf. Gen 3:17). Not just “on account of him” but “for his sake.” This helps us make sense of verse 20, which says that the creation was “subjected in hope.” The gospel gives us sure hope. 5:2 told us that believers are not only justified but “rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.” Now, we find that this hope is not only to see God's glory but to be glorified together with Christ (v17).

This is what the creation is eagerly awaiting (v19a): the revealing of the sons of God (v19b). As we'll hear next week (Lord-willing) in v23, this revealing is especially at “the redemption of our body.” The New Earth will finally get to be managed physically by man, who at that point will not only have been made in the image of God, but renewed in that image by being fully conformed to the image of God's Son (cf. v29–30).

So, it was in hope of this that the creation was subjected (v20) to bondage and corruption (v21). The creation does not assign itself its own purpose (“not willingly,” v20). God, Who gives it its purpose, is the One Who subjected it. His purpose for it is to witness to glory of His children (v21b). And He will not free it until His children come into the freedom of their own glory.

As we see “the whole creation groan and labor with birth pangs together” (v22), we note that these are pains that look forward to a birth, not backward to a death. The more conformed we are to Christ, the better stewards we should be for managing the creation in a way that glorifies God and serves mankind. When we understand the purpose of God for the creation, this should be one of the ways that we are happy to show our conformity to Christ.

But the great way of serving the creation is in evangelism, discipleship, and worship. The creation knows that God is its purpose. The creation knows that His people are the great purpose He has given to that creation. And, the day that it eagerly awaits cannot come until the last of His elect are gathered in. So, let us tell sinners the gospel of Christ. And, let us disciple our covenant children. And especially, let us worship the God Who saves in the midst of our worship and in response to our worship. This is the greater part of true and biblical “environmentalism.”

Who subjected the creation? In hope of what? If we really hope for God's elect to be glorified, what will be the things we most give our hearts to? Our time and effort and money to? What does that look like?

Sample prayer: Lord, we thank You and praise You that You have done so much for our sakes. You even cursed the creation to teach us to groan forward to glory. Grant that by Your Spirit, we would give our whole selves to knowing You and making You known, until You have finished Your work in this world and conformed us to Your Son, our Lord Jesus, in Whose Name we ask this, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP98 “O Sing a New Song to the LORD” or TPH299 “Joy to the World!”

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(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Romans 8, verse 19 through 22. These are God's words. For the earnest expectation of the creation. Eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of god. For the creation was subjected to futility. Not willingly. But because of him who subjected it in hope. Because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption.

Into. The glorious liberty. Of the children of god. Where we know that the whole creation groans and labors, With birth pains. Together. Until now. So far the reading of gods inspired and An error, tort Originally man was supposed to be a picture of god in the creation, everything that god made showed his wisdom, his love Uh, various things about his power.

His orderly necess truthfulness faithfulness, etc. There are many Of god's attributes, put on display in the creative thing. But there was one creature that was made in his image in knowledge, righteousness, and holiness. And that was us, that was Adam. And those who came from Adam, including his wife.

That who was made from him and all of us. Who are descended from them. And the creation, then was to become more and more, a display of the goodness and glory of god by man's imaging god in the way that we exercise our dominion in the creation. AMEN and the way that we managed, the creation that was set under us.

And so, we were supposed to take dominion. Over the creatures. And this was, Supposed to be something that was blessed. And the creation would be seen as it were to rejoice under our wise and righteous and and diligent and good management. Of course this means that everything would be done unto the glory of god, and that everything would be not an especially for the good of man serving man himself.

As above all, the rest of the creatures being made in god's image. Something that Many, who Claim to be four, what they call the environment, what a dreadful term that is as opposed to creation. Um, but they do not Prize god's glory and you're not do it under his glory.

And therefore, they do not prize man, as being made in god's image. And all such creation care. Is perverted. Sadly. However. That we sinned. In adam and we fell with him and the ground, the earth that he was taken from the dust. Was cursed. On account of him but not just on account of him.

Uh, the word very specifically in Genesis 3 verse 17 means for his sake. The the earth was cursed, the the creation that was supposed to be under him was cursed for his sake and we see in our passage that creation the subjected to utility not willingly, it wasn't the creations fault.

But because of him who subjected it in hope verse 20 and what is that hope. That hope is that one day? God redeeming. As many of the children of Adam from their sin, they would be children of god in jesus christ united to christ adopted by the father. Airs of god joint heirs of christ destined to be glorified together with christ after suffering for a little while.

Like we have just been hearing And so the the apostle, by the same spirit who had carried moses. When he wrote genesis 1 and 2 and three gives us the the true creation care. The thing that the creation is eagerly awaiting and expecting That there would be a new race of renewed image bearers.

Now, not the children of Adam made in the image of god, but the children of god, in Jesus Christ united to him who is not made in God's image, but who is himself the image of God? The exact imprint of his nature. The brilliance of his glory and this only begotten son to his God from everlasting, two everlastings is the one that we have been loved having been forknownd by God, we're predestined to be conformed to the sun of God is we're about to hear when we get To.

Uh, verse 29 and having been predestined to be conformed, to the image of his son, therefore, we must at last and diverse, 30. Be Glorified with that glory, which will be revealed in us. This is what the creation wants. And so the true environmentalist or rather, the true creation care.

Should understand what the creation is for. To bring glory to God. Especially as managed by his image, bearers in a way that prioritizes showing his glory and therefore, prioritizes the good and the dignity, and the superiority of all the rest of creation of those creatures who are made in his image.

That is what the creation is groaning for eagerly expecting desiring. And so, yes. As we are conformed to Christ and renewed in God's image, we do want to take better care of the creation. We want to show wisdom and kindness and orderliness and faithfulness and diligence joy in the Lord joy in the work that we do, all of these things.

But if we really want, to exercise, the great creation care. What are we going to do? We are ourselves are going to worship God. Themselves are going to use this means and we're going to call centers to repentance and faith in Jesus Christ. Because this is what the day is waiting for.

The revealing of the sons of God. And the glorious liberty of the children of God that revealing the sons of God is Um, Is. Coming. The, the creation eagerly waits for it, verse 19. It is the day when we have the glorious liberty as children of God. Now, not just the perfection of our souls.

That happens at death. What resurrected bodies. So that we with our new creation bodies in a new heavens and a new earth. Can finally be doing with our bodies? What we should have been doing? The whole time and more and better. For we will have glorious bodies, conformed Christ and not merely restored.

Original bodies, conformed. Uh, to Adams. Original body. And this. Is what the creation is going for. This is the hope. And that's what it means, isn't it? When God comes to Adam. And says, cursed is the ground. On account. Of you or even more correctly. For your sake. The whole of the glory of God.

That we heard about. In Romans chapter 5. That's the hope. And so, this creation has been subjected. And hope and it groans and labors. Uh, finally in verse 22, you see it groans in laborers, not with death pangs. The groaning of the creation, the being bound and corruption decay is not saying look back to the garden and what we did and Adam and see how dreadful is our sin that as dumbest to the world.

I mean that's true, isn't it? But it's not groaning in laboring with death pangs, looking backwards, Genesis 3, What kind of pains is it? Groaning in laboring with Groaning and laboring with birth pains. The reason it's still here. And one of the reasons that God has bounded in corruption and decay is to make us grown forward to what we shall be when he has finished.

All of his salvation, all of his redeeming us in Christ. It's first pains. And so when we see the hurricane's and the fires and the diseases, and all that is still wrong with this world. And now amazing is it just pretty marvelous world with all of the breath, taking glories of God's creation still in it.

This is the broken version. But when we see the brokenness of it, The scripture tells us to look forward. Because the reason it's still here is God is still saving. And when he has finally brought, To himself all those whom he warn you and predestined. And when they are finally conformed, To the image of his son.

That will get their resurrection bodies on that last day. And there will be a new earth. That enjoys participates in. The glorious freedom. Of the children of God. And the birth pangs will be over. Because that which to which they looked forward, will have come That's what? We should think of when we have hurricanes.

Tornadoes. Plague hunger. All those things that Belong to. The. Corruption and decay. Of the current creation. Praise God. May he Give to us as we'll hear the next week. To also have the first fruits of the spirit. To have that same spirit given groaning. That God has built into the creation.

Let's pray. Our father in heaven. How we thank you. For your Salvation mercy. That is behind what you have done. Even to the earth. And we pray, Lord that you would give us to see. Your love and your salvation. And to be eager. For all those who, You have chosen to be brought to faith in Jesus Christ.

The whole church being gathered in the prayer. How long from under the altar? Would finally be Fulfilled. And the number of the brethren would be complete. And the day of our adoption. Would come. That is the redemption of our bodies. And so grant to Lord hearts conformed to Christ. Hearts formed by the spirit.

That grown for that day. Make a good example of Christ within your world. Grant unto us to be. Renewed image barriers even now. But oh, Lord, hasten the day. When we will be conformed to him, we ask even in his name, Amen.