

“Three Holy Groans”

Romans 8:19-27

9-10-17 Sun AM

Because our glory is guaranteed by the penalty of sin being taken from the believer [8:1] and being co-heirs with Christ and co-sufferers with Christ [vs. 17-18], we **groan** to have this glory.

Groan means “anxious expectation,” “longing” “anticipation.” Groaning speaks of deliverance from a painful, unsatisfying, and sorrowful experience.

This morning we note 3 groans for glory [vs. 19, 23, and 26].

I. The Groan of Creation [vs. 19-22].

When God finished His creation it was a good creation.

Gen. 1:31, “*And God saw everything that he made, and, behold, it was very good.*”

What happened? The fall with Adam and Eve plunged the whole creation into a curse.

Notice the words Paul uses to describe creations groaning.

Creation is animals, plants, rivers, mountains, seas, and heavenly bodies. Suffering [v. 18], Vanity [v. 20], Bondage [v. 21], Decay [v. 21], and Pain [v. 22].

When you see or hear of a volcano, tsunami, earthquake, hurricane, or tornado, you are witnessing two things [v. 22].

1. You are witnessing creation groaning to be delivered.
2. You are witnessing birth pains to the coming of the Lord.

(1). Creation has a curse because of man’s fall, and will continue to decay until the new heavens and earth. God created the universe with age and is deteriorating till he destroys it in 2 Peter 3 after the millennium.

(2). These causes are also based on man worshipping the creation rather than the creator [Rom.1:25]. Creation will not be delivered till the believer is delivered [v. 19].

One day the curse will be lifted when Christ establishes His 1,000 year kingdom.

So we have the groan of creation, but secondly, the groan of believers.

II. The Groan of Believers [vs. 23-25].

Q- Why do Christians groan [v. 23]?

Christians groan because we have tasted the glory to come thru the First-fruits of the Spirit. We who are indwelt by the Spirit long to see the Lord, get our heavenly body, and worship and serve Him in heaven forever.

We eagerly await the redemption of our body when Christ returns. We were adopted into God's family as adult sons, and the climax to this is our bodily redemption.

Meanwhile we wait and hope [vs. 24-25]. We wait patiently for the eternal glory to come because suffering is only temporary.

The sons of God will one day be clothed with immortal and incorruptible bodies.

v. 24: "For **in** hope we have been saved"

This does not imply we are saved by hope. Paul teaches elsewhere we are saved by grace through faith.

Hope is inseparable from salvation. We are saved in and not by. Once the promise of bodily redemption is complete, we will no longer hope in them.

We have the groan of creation and the groan of the believer, and lastly, the groan of the Holy Spirit.

III. The Groan of the Holy Spirit [vs. 26-27].

The Holy Spirit groans on our behalf as He sees our sufferings and pain. He groans for the restoration of creation and Christ's eternal kingdom.

He not only groans, but He prays for us when we don't know what to pray for in our suffering, the Spirit intercedes for us in the will of God [v. 27].

We encounter this difficulty of knowing how to pray and what to pray for. God has given us the Holy Spirit for these times.

Q- What is this groaning? The groaning here **is not** the believer's utterances in an unknown tongue or private prayer language, but rather, divine communication between the Spirit and the Father that is not audible and can't be put into words. Notice it is the Spirit interceding for us, not thru us.

It is the Spirit and the Son's interceding and sustaining work that makes possible the preservation of believers till we come into ultimate glory.

Three Holy groans:

1. Creation to have the curse lifted.
2. The believer to be clothed in a new body.
3. The Spirit interceding for us.