

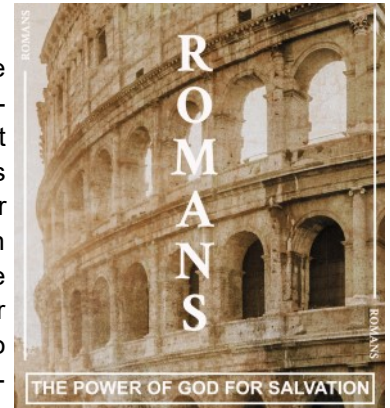
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Message Notes | 02/02/2025

Eschatology

Romans 8:18-25

<sup>18</sup> For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. <sup>19</sup> For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. <sup>20</sup> For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup> 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. <sup>22</sup> For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. <sup>23</sup> And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup> For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? <sup>25</sup> But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.



1. Consider the \_\_\_\_\_ (Vs.18)

2. Consider the \_\_\_\_\_ (Vs.19)

3. Consider the \_\_\_\_\_ (Vss.20&21)

4. Consider the \_\_\_\_\_ (Vss.21-25)

### Discussion Questions

#### Romans 8:18-25

**Getting Started** - What do the words "eschatology" and "apocalypse" mean in the Bible?

**Digging Deeper** (*Read Romans 8:18-25*)

**1) Understanding Eschatology** - Eschatology and apocalypse are often associated more with “gory” than “glory.”

- a) Can you think of examples where discussions about the end times focus on fear and destruction rather than the hope and glory of Jesus' return?
  
- b) While eschatology involves understanding world events leading up to Jesus' coming, how does Romans 8:18-24 refine and sharpen our focus?

**2) Considering the Comparison (Verse 18)** - Eschatology is the study of our future glory. Paul teaches that comparing our present sufferings with our future glory strengthens us to endure trials with hope.

- a) What does Paul say about the nature of this comparison?
  
- b) How does acknowledging the weight of suffering help us grasp the magnitude of future glory?
  
- c) Can you think of an analogy that illustrates just how incomparable future glory is to present struggles?

**3) Considering the Crowds (Verse 19)** - Paul describes all of creation eagerly awaiting the revealing of God's children. - What does this reveal about our value and role in God's plan?

**4) Considering the Crowns (Verses 20-21)** - Creation was subjected to futility because of humanity's fall.

- a) What do these verses mean?
  
- b) How does this connect with Psalm 8 and Genesis 1:26 regarding humanity's role in creation?
  
- c) How does this passage show that our redemption is not just personal but cosmic—affecting all of creation?

**5) Considering the Creation (Verses 22-25)**

- a) Some believe God's goal is for Christians to escape earth and live in heaven forever. How does this passage challenge that idea?

b) How does the concept of a renewed, glorified creation reshape your understanding of heaven and the afterlife?

c) What other Bible passages describe eternity as life in a renewed heaven and earth?

**Making It Real** - If this broken world still contains beauty and joy, how much greater will our experience be in a glorified world? As a group, end by discussing what life in the New Heavens and New Earth might be like. What pleasures and experiences might be enhanced?

### Resources:

- Romans: Righteousness from Heaven | R. Kent Hughes
- [www.blueletterbible.org](http://www.blueletterbible.org)
- [www.biblehub.com](http://www.biblehub.com)
- [www.preceptaustin.org](http://www.preceptaustin.org)