

A Lamentable Life

February 18, 2018

Suffering is unbearable if you aren't certain that God is for you and with you."

—Tim Keller

Romans 8:18-25

Suffering and glory are married together (v 17).

Suffering and glory represent two separate ages (v 18).

Suffering and glory can't be compared to each other (verse 18).

Suffering and glory are felt by both God's creation and his children (verse 19).

The Suffering and Glory of God's Creation (Romans 8:20-22)

Frustration (v20a) "For the creation was subjected to frustration"

Liberation (v21a)

First creation is liberated from "bondage to decay."

Second creation is liberated "into the glorious freedom of the children of God."

Groaning (v22) "We know that the whole creation has been groaning"

"Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth pains." —Matthew 24:7-8

The Suffering and Glory of God's Children (Romans 8:23-25)

Firstfruits of the Spirit (v 23a)

Groaning (v 23b) "we ourselves...groan inwardly"

Adoption, Redemption (v 23c) "We wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies"

Hope (v 24) "In this hope we were saved"

Patience (v 25) "We wait for it patiently"

"God give us a patient eagerness and an eager patience as we wait for your promises to be fulfilled." — John Stott

"Creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope." — Romans 8:20, ESV

Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope.

— 1 Thessalonians 4:13

Discussion Questions:

—How have you experienced glimpses of glory after suffering?

—Of the 5 aspects of suffering and glory for God's children, which one feels most connected to your life right now?

—Do you need more patients or eagerness? Why?

