

RTS Women's Study: The Book of Romans

#25: Romans 8:18-30: The Security of Your Salvation (Part 3)

Introduction: How Do Handle the Problem of Suffering?

I. Suffering and Groaning is Part of This Fallen World (v.18-25)

A. Groaning of Creation

- At the fall, the natural world was “subjected to futility” (v 20) and in “bondage to corruption” (v. 21)
- Ever since, the creation looks forward its redemption; someday it will be “set free” (v. 21) and remade into a New Heavens and New Earth

B. Groaning of Our Bodies

- Our physical bodies are also broken by the fall
- Thus we wait “with patience” (v. 25) for the “redemption of our bodies” (v.23)

Applications:

- Expect suffering in this world; don't have an “over-realized eschatology”
- Our redemption someday will be *physical* not just spiritual!
- The glory to be revealed will vastly outshine our suffering (v.18)

II. But We Have Reasons to Be Positive and Hopeful (v.26-30)

A. The Spirit Intercedes for Us (v. 26 -27)

- Sometimes we have such “weakness” that we struggle even to pray
- But God sends his Spirit as a comforter, to intercede for us

B. God Works All Things for God

- Who does this apply to? “those who love God”
- What events does it cover? “all things”
- What is the end game? “for good”
- How does God accomplish this?
 - The gold chain of salvation—if you experience one part you experience all parts
 - Predestination: God sovereignly ordains your salvation
 - Calling: God opens your heart to the Gospel message
 - Justification: God declares you righteous on the basis of Christ’s work
 - Glorification: God brings you to heaven and gives you a new body

Application:

- Take heart: God is sovereign over evil in the world.
- Predestination is a doctrine that brings reassurance and comfort

Discussion Groups

1. How are you suffering in your life even today? How do you relate to the “groanings” discussed in this passage?
2. Do you struggle to believe that God really works all things for good? What makes you doubt? Does this passage help overcome those doubts?
3. What role does predestination have in giving believers assurance of salvation? In what ways do you struggle with that doctrine?