

Groaning Today, Glorified Tomorrow

Sermon 25 in the Romans Series

Romans 8:17-23

I. Heirs of God v. 17a

A. If Children, then heirs

Haldane “As the birthright of a child confers a title to the property of its father, and so distinguishes such property from what the child may acquire by industry and labor, so also is the case with adoption. *Here we see the difference between the law and the gospel. The law treats men as mercenaries, and says, “Do, and live.” the gospel treats them as children, and says, “Live, and do.”*”

B. Joint-heirs with Christ

C. What is this Inheritance?

Psalm 16:5 -- The LORD is the portion of mine inheritance

Lamentations 3:24 -- The LORD is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him.

Psalm 73:25, 26 -- Whom have I in heaven *but You?* And *there is* none upon earth *that* I desire besides You. My flesh and my heart fail; *But God is* the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

D. Suffering is included in this Inheritance v. 17b

II. Suffering and Glory Compared v. 18

Whatever you suffer now, is nothing compared to the glory of eternity.
There is no adequate human way to express the joy of what we shall know.

1. Sufferings are only during this present time
2. The full glory is yet to be revealed

2 Corinthians 4:16-17 -- ¹⁶Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward *man* is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory,

III. The Groaning of Creation 19-22

A. What is the “Creation” that Groans?

Creation itself is personified as groaning because of the effects of sin.
The creation was made to glorify God and do His work.

B. Now creation is subjected to Futility – v. 20

Our translations of Ecclesiastes say Vanity, Vanity all is Vanity.
In the LXX -- Futility is same Greek word that we have in this verse.

C. Creation itself will be Delivered v. 21-22

We marvel at what we see in creation today.
In the eternal state – the perfected creation will work perfectly!

IV. The Groaning of the Christian v. 23

A. Past tense of Adoption -- our eternal election – Acts 18:10

“for I have many people in this city”.

B. Present tense of Adoption -- Our effectual calling

C. Future tense of Adoption -- Our Final Glorification

This is the completion of our salvation.
This occurs at the resurrection of the great day.