

# The Hope of God's Glory and The Certainty of God's Love

Romans 8:18-39 / April 27, 2019

## 1. THE HOPE OF GOD'S GLORY (8:18-27)

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. (8:18)

### The Sufferings and Glory of God's Creation (8:19-22)

- Patience:** For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God.
- Subjection:** For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope 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.
- Groaning:** For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.

And to Adam he said,

"Because you have listened to the voice of your wife / and have eaten of the tree / of which I commanded you, / 'You shall not eat of it,' / cursed is the ground because of you; / in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; / thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; / and you shall eat the plants of the field. / By the sweat of your face / you shall eat bread, / till you return to the ground, / for out of it you were taken; / for you are dust, / and to dust you shall return." (Genesis 3:14-19)

On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side." And leaving the crowd, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. And other boats were with him. And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. And they woke him and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" **And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.** He said to them, "Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?" And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?" (Mark 4:35-41)

And around the throne, on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind: the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with the face of a man, and the fourth living creature like an eagle in flight. And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say, "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!" (Revelation 4:6-8)

### The Sufferings and Glory of God's Children (8:23-27)

- Adoption:** And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.
- Hope:** For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.
- Intercession:** Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings **too deep for words**. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

## 2. THE STEADFASTNESS OF GOD'S LOVE (8:28-39)

### Five Unshakeable Convictions of God's Love (8:28)

1. And we know that for those who love God
2. all things
3. work
4. together for good,
5. for those who are called according to his purpose.

## Five Undeniable Affirmations of God's Love (8:29-30)

1. For those whom he **foreknew**
2. he also **predestined** to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.
3. And those whom he predestined he also **called**, and
4. those whom he called he also **justified**, and
5. those whom he justified he also **glorified**.

## Five Unanswerable Questions of God's Love (8:31-39)

What then shall we say to these things?

1. If God is for us, who can be against us?
2. He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?
3. Who shall bring any charge against God's elect?
  - It is God who justifies.
4. Who is to condemn?
  - Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.
5. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?
  - Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?
  - As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.” (Psalm 44:22)
  - No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

### More Than Conquerors

- Ephesus:** To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.’ (Revelation 2:7)
- Smyrna:** The one who conquers will not be hurt by the second death.’ (Revelation 2:11b)
- Pergamum:** To the one who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, with a new name written on the stone that no one knows except the one who receives it.’ (Revelation 2:17)
- Thyatira:** The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, even as I myself have received authority from my Father. And I will give him the morning star. (Revelation 2:26-28a)
- Sardis:** The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life. I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels. (Revelation 3:5)
- Philadelphia:** The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it, and I will write on him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name. (Revelation 3:12)
- Laodicea:** The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. (Revelation 3:21)