

GROANING -WHY

ROMANS 8

Text:

Introduction:

Certainly as we go through life the fact is that there are many more questions than answers.

Illustrations:

Adolph Hitler – was responsible for the slaughter of 6 million Jews – Why?

Good people seem to suffer maybe even more than others – Why?

Columbine – Why?

September 11, 2001 – Why?

People suffering with cancer, and other diseases – Why?

Why do some couples decide that divorce is their only option?

Why do babies and children die?

Why are there tragedies and devastating events happening so often?

The truth is – I DON’T KNOW but I can refer you to the One who does.

In this chapter we see that affliction, suffering, trials, tragedies, difficulties are common to Christians and are not always a sign of sin or a lack of faithfulness. These things also serve to remind us of the depths of His love for us.

Notice:

1. THE GROANING OF THE CREATION (VS. 19-22)

Romans 8:19-22

¹⁹ For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. ²⁰ For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected *the same* in hope, ²¹ Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.

The creation is anxiously waiting. The Bible says that there is an “earnest expectation.”

The words earnest expectation carries the idea of standing on your tiptoes with your eyes looking ahead

with expectancy. So, the creation is like a 4-year old boy that runs to the window every day to see if the school bus has arrived to deliver his big brother, his playmate. The boy is watching with an outstretched head.

Creation here refers to the animals, the plants, the mountains, the seas, the rivers, the valleys....all of the created universe longs to be restored

Now, this idea of a rock or a dandelion crying out to God, that seems bizarre to our way of thinking.

But note what Isaiah said:

Isaiah 65:17

¹⁷ For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.

Isaiah 55:12

¹² For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap *their* hands.

Now we know that mountains and tree don't have mouths or hands, but nature will be restored to its original state as it was in the Garden of Eden.

Genesis 3:17-19

¹⁷ And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat *of* it all the days of

thy life; ¹⁸Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; ¹⁹In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou *art*, and unto dust shalt thou return.

Before the Fall, no weeds or poisonous plants, no thorns or thistles or anything else existed that could cause man misery or harm. But after the Fall, the creation was subjected to these things.

Because of man's sin, no part of nature now exists as God intended it to be and as it originally was. Paul goes on to reveal that nature did not curse itself, but instead, the curse was executed by its Creator.

2. THE GROANING OF THE CHRISTIAN (VS. 23-25)

Romans 8:23-25

²³And not only *they*, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, *to wit*, the redemption of our body. ²⁴For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? ²⁵But if we hope for that we see not, *then* do we with patience wait for *it*.

You and I are groaning for something more. And the reason that we groan is not because everything on this earth is ugly, or because all the food on this planet is bland, or because there is no joy to be found on this evil planet. That's not true. This earth isn't all bad; it's just that we have tasted something better.

As I stated earlier, there are a lot we don't understand and it leaves us asking why but one day we will leave this earth to be with our Saviour for all eternity.

Illustration:

In a sleepy little cemetery in Alabama, there is a tombstone of a man named Solomon Peas. This is what his headstone reads:

Here lies Solomon Peas
Under the lilies and under the trees
Peas is not here, only the pod
Peas has shelled out and gone home to God

There is one more groaning described here by Paul:

3. THE GROANING OF THE COMFORTER (VS. 26-27)

Romans 8:26-27

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. ²⁷ And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what *is* the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to *the will of God*.

The Scripture says that the Holy Spirit is groanings for you and me.

The issue is the matter of prayer. Because we live in these bodies in this world, we have certain weaknesses.

There are a few obstacles to our prayer life.

A. Physical weakness

How many times have you been praying and you suddenly drift off to sleep?

How often have we been in the service and fatigue get the best of us and we drift off?

Even the Lord's disciples the night of His betrayal and arrest fell asleep.

They were and we are physically weak.

B. Perspective weakness

You and I have no idea what to pray for sometimes. Jesus said that if we ask for anything in accordance with his will, we will receive.

But at times we don't know what to ask for, because we now see through a glass darkly.

Illustration:

One of the most fascinating things in the world to watch is a blind man crossing the street while holding on to nothing but a dog that looks bored out of his mind. That blind man has no idea that a bus is rounding the corner or that a curb is fast approaching. However, he is not in danger because he has a faithful guide. That dog is looking out for him.

Close:

There are times that we ask why. I'm grateful that in comparison to

He Maketh No Mistake

My Father's way may twist and turn, My heart may throb and ache,

But in my soul I'm glad I know, He maketh no mistake.

My cherished plans may go astray, My hopes may fade away,

But still I'll trust my Lord to lead For He doth know the way.

Tho' night be dark and it may seem That day will never

break;

I'll pin my faith, my all in Him, He maketh no mistake.

There's so much now I cannot see, My eyesight's far too dim;

But come what may, I'll simply trust And leave it all to Him.

For by and by the mist will lift And plain it all He'll make.

Through all the way, tho' dark to me, He made not one mistake.

-A. M. OVERTON

Paul stated:

Romans 8:18

¹⁸ For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time *are* not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us.