



2:42LifeGroups

GROWING TOGETHER IN THE GOSPEL

Life Group Study Guide

We Groan for Glory

Introduction and Review

Our study of Romans 8 has taken us to a grand section, verses 18-30. These verses are bookended by the word “glory,” which points to the theme of this section: our future glory is so great that it eclipses present suffering. Paul develops the greatness of our future glory in five ways:

- It is so great that the universe groans for it (8:19-22)
- It is so great that we ourselves groan for it (8:23-25)
- It is so great that the Spirit groans for it (8:26-27)
- It is so great that God orchestrates all events to accomplish it (8:28)
- It is so great that God guarantees it from eternity past (8:29-30)

What is this glory? It is our being conformed to the image of Christ, the only way in which we can glorify God and enjoy him forever. That’s why, as we have been emphasizing, instead of smothering our hope, suffering actually *fuels* it.

In today’s message, we focus on 8:23-25. These verses teach that our future glory is worth groaning for with patient hope.

Discussion & Application

1. The word “groan” carries the idea of a deep sigh—whether silent or aloud—from longing for something. What kinds of temporal things do we tend to “sigh” for *other* than Christlikeness?
2. Suppose a person thinks that his best experiences, his highest attainments will happen *now* in this life. Describe that person. What kind of priorities, ambitions, disappointments, etc. might they have?
3. Take the description above, and suppose that this person claims to be a believer. How would you use Romans 8:23-25 to counsel him or her?
4. Suppose a person thinks that there is absolutely nothing good in this life—any good must wait until heaven. What truths from Romans 8:23-25 would you use to counsel this person?
5. Read 8:15-17. Seen in light of 8:23, these verses teach us that it is the Holy Spirit who prompts our longing for glory. This is because he tells us that even though we are the children of God now, we are not yet who will eventually be. We haven’t completely “grown up”; we don’t look like Christ yet. Comparing yourself with Christ, what areas do you most long to “grow up” in?