

# “THE UNIVERSAL LONGING FOR GLORY”

## Romans 8:18-27

Message 1873

The idea of glory is a challenging theme all through the Bible. We are instructed to think about what is coming. It is better farther on. The glory is coming. That is a lifting theme during trials and tribulations. In trouble we are encouraged by the Bible to look forward. It will not always be like this.

Glory is an inspiring theme. It assures relief from the world’s pressure. We are encouraged to persevere because there is a better day coming.

Glory is a building theme. We build in hope which thrives upon the thought of coming glory. This is a universal experience.

This message focuses on THE UNIVERSAL LONGING FOR GLORY from Romans 8:18-27.

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.*

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.*

23. *And 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.*

24. *For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?*

25. *But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.*

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.*

In these verses Paul brings together the several PROOFS that all creation longs for glory.

THE GROAN OF EXPERIENCE expresses the longing for glory. Paul said the whole creation is subject to vanity. Look at verse 20: “For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope.” So there is the groan of experience from the creation which was not willingly under this vanity.

The creation is in bondage as the Apostle Paul writes in verse 21: “Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption.” Now corruption means decay. We know from much research that everything is running down. Everything goes down hill and is in the bondage of

corruption and decay.

In verse 22 we are told that the whole creation “groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.” It groans and is in pain. To travail in pain conveys the thought of the kind of pain a mother has when she gives birth to a child, laboring pain. So the whole creation is groaning in the experience of waiting for the glory that shall come. We can see how we all are experiencing this burden of groans.

THE GROAN OF EXPECTATIONS indicates the longing for glory. The groan of creation is out there but this groan is in here. It is the inner groan because the Apostle Paul says, “We groan within ourselves,” in verse 23. I suggest that the inner groan is more intense than the outer groan. Because what happens inside of us that we cannot release is far more intense than what happens in nature, in creation.

This inner groan is a kind of waiting groan, because this groan of expectation awaits the time when we will receive the redemption of our bodies. That means the resurrection, the resurrection of the body. When we obtain our new bodies we will be over this groan of expectation but now we are under this groan which simply looks forward.

It is a hopeful groan because the Apostle Paul writes that “we are saved by hope.” Then he explains that once you have received then you no longer hope. What you see you don’t hope for. What you can now see you don’t hope for. “But if we hope for that we see not then do we with patience wait for it,” verse 25.

So here is the groan of expectation. We are waiting, waiting, anxiously, eagerly waiting. We are expecting the time will come when we will receive our new bodies and then we will no longer have any need for hope. We all now know our groaning of expectation.

THE GROAN OF EXPRESSION recognizes the longing for glory. Here we have the restraint of infirmity. The Apostle says, the Spirit helps our infirmities, that means our weaknesses, our inabilities. Because we do not know what we should pray for, we have unspoken cries that need release. We have words we cannot express. We have troubles that press us down and we don’t know how to pray. We don’t know how to form our words. We can only come to God with deep groaning of the spirit in our hearts.

Then the Spirit helps our infirmities. The Spirit speaks for us in verse 26: “but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.” Oh, praise God. Here is a groan of expression. When we don’t know what to say, we don’t know how to say it, then the Spirit of God comes and takes what we cannot say and presents it before God in language that God can understand and can answer.

Go onto verse 27: “And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he (the Spirit) maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.” The Spirit helps us. The Spirit knows the mind of God, His purpose for us. The Spirit speaks to God for us in accordance with God’s perfect will and His glory. So there is the groan of expression.

Oh friend, we rejoice in the groan of expression because we find the Spirit gives us release when we are unable to say what is on our hearts. The Spirit is able to take our unutterable groanings and present them before God for His glory and ours. Isn’t that wonderful?

These groans all prove that we all long for the glory which is coming. There is the groan of experience. We are restrained in the bondage of corruption. There is the groan of expectation. We await with longing the redemption of our bodies. There is the groan of expression. We find our release in the

Spirit speaking for us. As you walk with the Lord may your longing for glory grow ever brighter.