

# Sermon Notes

Text: Romans 8:18

→ Suffering now versus glory later - obvious choice.

## OUR REALITY:

You wish Easter meant that Christians weren't going to suffer any more in this world. But Christians suffer just as much as anyone else. In fact there are some ways we have to suffer as Christians that are different from everyone else:

- Putting to death the practices of the body
- Suffering for righteousness
- "If indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him." Romans 8:17

## THE PROBLEM:

Since:

- The world puts an extreme value on comfort right now.
- And following Jesus adds a kind of suffering to our lives.
- People ask: why would you do that?
- That way of thinking can affect us.
- We start feeling like God's given us a bad deal.

## THIS TEXT:

Romans 8:18 is about perspective. Paul shows us God has not given us a bad deal because "the good which is promised is far greater than the evil that we fear."

## THE POINT OF THIS MESSAGE:

God has given believers something unbelievers don't have in the middle of suffering. Hope. But to have the right perspective on suffering right now you have to consider it.

## WHY IT MATTERS:

You don't and you are in trouble. If you have a wrong perspective on suffering with Jesus, it is going to have consequences.

## THE COMPARISON

He puts two realities on a scale:

### 1. The sufferings of this present time

Real. Massive. Not minimized.

Paul's life → beatings, prison, danger, pressure

Creation → groaning

Like a maternity ward screaming

We groan

The Spirit groans

Romans 8:35,36 - Tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, danger, sword

God knows how bad it is — better than you do.

### 2. The glory to be revealed into us

Something in the future - to be

Not created → revealed

Romans 8:30 - Certain

Not just observed → experienced

Glory

-A future inheritance

-No suffering

-A epochal kind of change in this world and in our bodies

Conformed to Jesus' resurrection body (Phil. 3:21)

Sit with Him on His throne (Rev. 3:21)

## THE VERDICT

No comparison. Not even close. Not worthy to be compared.

“The good which is promised is far greater than the evil that we fear.” — Manton

## THE ILLUSTRATION (Edwards)

Would you accept:

1 minute of pain → for 80 years of prosperity?

Of course.

Now scale that:

Eternity vs this life

Glory vs suffering

→ The gap is infinitely bigger.

## BUT THIS DOESN'T FEEL OBVIOUS TO US

Because the world is constantly discipling you to believe:

Comfort now is everything.

So we functionally reverse the verse: "The glory is not worth comparing to my suffering."

And when that happens: You won't persevere. You won't obey when it's hard. You'll organize your life around avoiding discomfort.

## AND THAT IS A VERY BAD CHOICE

Life is going to be hard in some way.

You are always choosing between two hards:

Hard now (obedience) → glory later

Easy now (sin) → worse later

Choose the hard that leads to glory

## THE TWO THINGS NEEDED

1. You have to have the Spirit. If you are not a Christian you cannot do this. You will always choose: comfort now over glory later. You need God to do a miracle in your heart.
2. But if you are a Christian, you still are going to need to think. In a world that is pressuring you to live for now, you must build a strategy to live for what is most valuable. Do what Paul did - consider! Read about resurrection and eternity, think about it, pray about it, rehearse it, talk about it until being glorified with Jesus becomes **SO MUCH GREATER** than the pain and shame of suffering with Jesus.

## SO WHAT?

Life is hard. Following Jesus is often harder. But you are going to be glorified forever. That's amazing. But no matter how great that truth is, it's not going to do us much good if we don't think about it and learn to live in light of it. Because suffer now, glory later? There's no comparison. Not even close. The right choice is obvious.

