

A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED ON PAUL'S LETTER TO THE CHURCH IN ROME

SUFFERING NOW---FUTURE GLORY

Romans 8:18-19 "I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed."

Life is not always easy for you, is it? Christians suffer as do non-Christians. Suffering is a result of the sin Eve and Adam ushered into the world through eating of the forbidden fruit. Since that time until now and it will be true until God brings this world to an end, human beings will suffer.

There are many passages of Holy Scripture that give encouragement for the times when you do suffer. St. Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 4:16 – 5:1) "Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. . .we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven. . ."

Peter addressed the reality that believers would even suffer persecution. He wrote, "Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you. . .but rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when His glory is revealed." (1 Peter 4:13-14) He wrote this after in chapter 1 reminding those being persecuted God promised them "an inheritance that can never perish, spoil, or fade. This inheritance," he wrote, "is kept in heaven for you . . ."

As St. Paul faced personal persecution he wrote to his fellow Christians in Philippi, "I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain . . ." (Philippians 1:20-21)

When you suffer or even now if you are currently suffering, today's devotional verse says, your present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed to you. It encourages you to wait with eager expectation for the time in the future when you and your fellow believers will be revealed for all creation to see you as a child of God.

Prayer: Grant me the eyes of faith Lord to see the future you have in store for me through the faith you have given me in Jesus Christ, Your Son, my Savior. In His name. Amen.

The Christian suff'rings here below, Do not deserve to be compar'd!
Unto the joys God will bestow, To those who trust unto His word.

On this sure promise they may build! They never need to doubt or fear—
Such glories are in them reveal'd, Which will repay their suff'rings here.

Happy will be the time indeed, For which the whole creation wait;
When ev'ry creature shall be freed From their oppress'd and mournful state.

In Adam's fall the whole was made, Subject to vanity and sin—
The curse on all the earth was laid, And all that is contain'd therein.

All creatures may be said to groan, And travel in distress and pain;
All living creatures, Sun and Moon, They feel the curse of guilt and stain.

But when the blessed sons of God In all their glory come to view;
When heav'n and earth shall be renew'd, All creatures are redeemed too.
(Hymn by Paul Henkel, Public Domain)