

Connection to Romans 8

God suffers with us to perfect us and to be glorified in the person we are becoming. This perfecting points to our security as believers, knowing that even the difficulties play a role in our salvation.

Introduction/Opening

Ryan's parents bought and moved into their retirement home when he was in high school. The house was forty years old, overgrown with honeysuckle, had wood floors that creaked no matter where you stepped, and included a mother-in-law suite. Ryan remembers his first couple of nights sleeping in this house. The house literally groaned as the heater kicked on. You knew where everyone was in the house since you could hear every step. Not long after moving in, the demo work began. It took a year to demo the first floor, which meant no kitchen through the holidays, work after school in the yard cutting the fence out of the honeysuckle, no entertaining guests at the house, and many other sacrifices that were made. Eventually, the house became the house Ryan's parents envisioned, hosting people on their back porch and inviting them for bonfires. Knowing what it once was helps them appreciate what the house has become.

Similarly, God suffers with us to perfect us and to take glory in the person we are becoming. God reveals His glory through redeeming His creation.

Outline

1. We Have Hope Because God Will Redeem the World (vv. 18-22).
The world groans because it has been cursed with sin and longs to be redeemed and made whole again. God is the only one who can redeem the earth. Therefore, He will receive glory and praise when it happens.
2. We Have Hope Because God is Redeeming Us (vv. 23-27).
When we accept Christ, we are declared righteous, but that does not mean we live a totally righteous life. The Holy Spirit works within us in the process of sanctification. The Holy Spirit intercedes to God on our behalf in this process. Even when we mess up, the Holy Spirit works within us to change us to be more like Christ.
3. God Takes Glory in the Progression (vv. 28-30).
God works all things for our good. Our sanctification is a progression of good days and bad days, but they all ultimately make us more like Christ. We will one day be glorified, and God will receive all the honor because He is the One behind our justification, sanctification, and glorification. It is all because of Him that we can take part in the hope of our future.

Conclusion

God is in the process of redeeming our lives. Whether we have just taken the first step or have been a believer for years, we are still in process. Let today be the day when you allow God to redeem your life. It will be a long process—one that takes your whole life. However, God takes glory in the setbacks, the victories, and the life change. It can be messy, but the finished product gives God all of the glory.

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