

Consider It

How many times does Paul use the verb “to groan” in this passage? The word means to sigh or groan because of deep concern or distress.

Why does creation groan? What is it waiting for (8:19-22)?

How should the Christ-follower view creation? How should we treat or care for the world God has given us?

Why do we groan (8:18, 23)?

What are some of the sufferings that people experience?

What about your current circumstances causes you to sigh or groan?

What gives us hope even in distress or suffering (8:23-25)?

What is real hope?

What promise of God should enable us to endure suffering?

Why does the Holy Spirit groan (8:26-27)?

When do people find it hard to pray?

When was the last time you were at a loss for words in prayer?

How does the Spirit help us in our prayers (8:26-27)?

Live It

What activity will you engage in individually or as a family to observe the created world (e.g. planting seeds, nurturing a garden, reaping a harvest)?

What hard thing will you take to God in prayer this week trusting the Holy Spirit to intercede on your behalf?

Broken! Made New!

"Creation Made New"

Romans 8:18-27

Sunday, April 26, 2020

Sermon Sentence

Don't get lost in your present sufferings. Look around. Look ahead. Look up. God has something more for you!

Don't get lost in our present sufferings!

Romans 8:18

Don't get lost in your present sufferings. Look around!

Consider the Example of Creation.

Romans 8:19-22

Don't get lost in your present sufferings. Look ahead!

Consider the Hope of Your Salvation.

Romans 8:23-25

Don't get lost in your present sufferings. Look up!

Consider the Help of the Spirit.

Romans 8:26-27

Discussion Questions

"Creation Made New"

Romans 8:18-27

Read It

I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. ²³ Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

²⁶ In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. ²⁷ And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.

Romans 8:18–27 (NIV)

Open It

What have you observed in creation during your "sheltering in place" experience? What animals or birds have you seen that you might have missed before? Where did you observe them? What were they doing?