



Leader's Guide

LESSON 13

Dr. Jerry Nelson

In response to the sermon on December 2

Romans 8:18-25 **A Redeemed Creation**

Key Points

We have all suffered from the devastating effects of decay and death. The pain is difficult to bear and the loss is significant. Yet, because of Jesus Christ, death is only a temporary separation for those who believe. We have hope in a future resurrection. It is our inheritance! In this passage we will discover:

- All creation waits in eager expectation
- Creation itself will be freed from its bondage to decay
- We groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption
- The certainty of our adoption gives us hope
- Our possession of the Holy Spirit is a pledge of our future inheritance

All creation groans under the effects of The Fall. Humanity, without Christ, is full of hopelessness and despair. In many respects, the future does not seem more promising, only more daunting. The philosophies of the day teach us to live for the temporal, for there is little certainty in a hopeful future, either in this life or the next. But nothing could be further from the truth!

Thoughts as You Lead

- God will indeed redeem creation! We can often lose sight of our eternal hope in the midst of the temporal sufferings we face. We know that the Holy Spirit is actively engaging us and redeeming what was formerly lost, for we see evidence of restoration as we

observe an increasing growth in Christ (spiritual formation). We also, by faith, look forward to a new heavens and earth, a resurrected body and life everlasting. What difference does that make for us today? This should serve as a great encouragement for those who forget the blessings of God and get caught up in the cares of this world. In your prayer time this week, spend time thanking God for his goodness, for the promise of the future, and that he will enable us all live in light of the eternal.

Discussion Questions

1. In verse 18, Paul makes a comparison between “present sufferings” and future “glory.” How (*in what way*) can we “consider” (*count, regard, reckon*) our “present sufferings as not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us?”
2. Paul personifies “creation” as “expecting”(19) and hoping.” (21) First of all, who/what is “creation?” And what is creation expecting and hoping and how will the outcome impact us?
(See also 2 Peter 3:10-13 for a description of the destruction and renewal of the earth when Christ comes again.)
3. How do you picture creation’s frustration?
4. We live in a complex world full of pain, death and despair. How does the culture respond to tragedy? What philosophies does it offer?
5. What is the world’s definition of hope? According to our culture, what is the best we can hope for?
6. What relational difficulties transpire when we have no hope?
7. How does hope change a relationship? How does hope draw you closer to God?
8. 8:23 (See also Ephesians 1:14) What is the relationship between the Holy Spirit (“we who have the firstfruits of the Spirit”) and our expectation of the redemption of our bodies?

9. How does the hope of physical resurrection impact your outlook today, or does it? (See also *Romans 8:10-11*)
10. Describe the difference between biblical “hope” and human wishful thinking. (“*Hope*” is based on God’s promise while “*wishful thinking*” is built on desire without evidence.)
11. In the context of these verses, what is our hope in Christ? (*A new heavens and earth and a resurrected body.*)
12. How patient are you in your hope in Christ?
13. On what is our patience based? (*God’s promises*)
14. Do you have a resistance to this message of hope? Why so? What would be the remedy?

