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All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. ⦁ Pew Bible Page Number is 1042.

In the Study Verse Section, God’s Word is printed in regular faced text with Pastor Joe’s commentary in the smaller faced text.

Biblical words, underlined with dots, are explained in the brackets.



1. ***All Creation Groans!*** Right now, creation cannot fulfill the purposes for which

 God designed it.

2. Creation’s Experience—suffering, the curse, decay, pain; Creation’s

 Expression—like labor pains; Creation’s Expectation—it wants to be set free.

3. As a follower of Christ, you can be certain that this ‘groaning creation’ will

 become a ‘glorious creation.’

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**The Believer *Always* has Hope!**

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| **The Point*As a follower of Christ, you can be certain that your temporary suffering will one day give way to eternal glory.*** |

**1. Our Present Grief**

**Romans 8:23, NLT** *- 23 And we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering. We, too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as his adopted children, including the new bodies he has promised us.*

**Romans 8:23, HCSB** *- 23 And not only that* [rf., not only does creation groan]*, but we ourselves who have the Spirit* [refers to the indwelling ministry of the Spirit of God] *as the firstfruits* [refers to the Jewish custom of bringing the *first fruits* of the harvest to the temple and offering it to God (cf., Lev. 23:10ff); this consecrated the whole harvest, and it carries with it the thought that there will be later fruits (otherwise there is no point in “first”); The Holy Spirit in us is a foretaste of the greater measure to come] *—we also groan* [“goran” should not be confused with childish moaning or selfish grumbling; our we groan because we realize our own fallenness and what we lost in *the fall*; we also groan (ie., *long for*) what is to come from God] *within ourselves, eagerly waiting* [a rare *double compound* Gk. verb in the imperative mood: lit., a “burning expectation”] *for adoption* [Paul’s favorite metaphor for our salvation]*, the redemption* [meaning “to be purchase out of slavery to be set free”] *of our* [earthly, fallen, corrupt]  *bodies.* [Insight: *We long to be free!*]

**2. Our Future Glory**

**Romans 8:24–25, NLT** *- 24 We were given this hope when we were saved. (If we already have something, we don’t need to hope for it. 25 But if we look forward to something we don’t yet have, we must wait patiently and confidently.)*

**Romans 8:24–25, HCSB** *- 24 Now in* [Gk: *dative case*, lit., “by” or “because of”] *this hope we were saved* [Gk: Aorist (past tense), passive, indicative—as v. 23 refers to our future hope, v. 24 (here) refers to our past salvation though the agency of the Holy Spirit; Paul used all seven Greek tenses to describe our salvation in the book Romans]*, yet hope that is seen is not hope, because who hopes for what he sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with patience.* [“Hope”—it’s not “I wish” (our cultural understanding) but “I know”. It is a settled confidence based on God’s Word—His promises.]

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**Romans 8:23–25, TLB** *- 23 And even we Christians, although we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, also groan to be released from pain and suffering. We, too, wait anxiously for that day when God will give us our full rights as his children, including the new bodies he has promised us—bodies that will never be sick again and will never die. 24 We are saved by trusting. And trusting means looking forward to getting something we don’t yet have—for a man who already has something doesn’t need to hope and trust that he will get it. 25 But if we must keep trusting God for something that hasn’t happened yet, it teaches us to wait patiently and confidently.*

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| **Life Application Section:**  |

***“Thoughts for the Hopeful Believer”***

1. Hope transforms suffering.

2. Purpose not to be worried, discouraged or fearful.

3. Our hope keeps us from settling for the things of this world.

4. Our hope turns our eyes away from our pain to God’ glory.

5. Don’t “groan” to the point that you negate what Christ has done for you.

6. Don’t settle your hope on this life.

7. Set your heart and mind on your redemption.

8. Your *redemption* nearer now than ever before.

**Bonus: A thought for the unbeliever—*get right with Christ today!***