

Much Needed Perspective on Suffering – Romans 8:17-25

As the children of God, we are heirs of a glorious inheritance. (8:17a)

The inevitable path towards this future inheritance is one marked by suffering. (8:17b)

The sufferings of this present life are nothing compared to our glorious future. (8:18)

Along with all creation, we wait like a woman in labor for our full adoption when we will be given our new resurrected bodies to live forever with God in a perfect world. (8:19-23)

Because we have this hope, we wait for it with patience and are sustained by it. (8:24-25)

Questions for Discussion & Application:

1. What was difficult, helpful, or challenging from this study of God's Word?
2. What are some typical attitudes toward suffering that exist within our culture? How do these influence you?

3. What truths should influence our experience of suffering as Christians?
4. What are some ways that you have experienced suffering in your own life?
5. How have some of your sufferings been related to your identity with Christ and godly lifestyle?
6. Why is having hope so important to help us to endure suffering?
7. How has the hope that you will be resurrected to live forever with God in a perfect world sustained and encouraged you in the midst of suffering?
8. Are you walking through suffering in your life now? How will you apply these truths to your current suffering?
9. What does it look like in your life to wait for your future inheritance with patience?
10. What are some ways of thinking that we need to avoid that won't be helpful to us as we seek to wait for our future inheritance with patience?