



## CREATION GROANS

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From verse 18 of Romans 8 right down to the end of the chapter, Paul's intention is to help you face the suffering you are inevitably going to have to face without quitting on Jesus. In this study we will focus on verses 18 – 25.

◆ What thoughts does Paul's phrase, "the glory which shall be revealed in us" (verse 18), bring to mind?

◆ What does Paul mean when he says, "creation was subjected to futility" (verse 20)?

How is that subjection evident in the world around us?

◆ In what sense does creation groan (verse 22)?

◆ The futility and decay — all the suffering you see all around the universe — has been decreed by God: it is His judicial decree. Do you agree?

How would you respond to those who object to us attributing all the suffering in the world to God's decree?

- ◆ God has subjected creation to frustration but He has subjected it in hope (verse 20). What is the hope to which Paul is referring here?
  
- ◆ It is not only creation that groans. Paul says that, "We also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body" (verse 23). In your experience, what is this inward groaning to which Paul refers like?
  
- ◆ Why is it significant that Paul describes us as those, "who have the firstfruits of the Spirit?"
  
- ◆ Try to express in your own words what it means to "eagerly wait with perseverance"(verse 25).
  
- ◆ How might what you have learned from these verses help you to remain faithful to the Lord through whatever suffering may come your way?