

## Romans Lesson 11 Articles

**8:18–21.** The first promise is that of future glory. Perhaps no truth is so glaringly absent from the understanding of most Christians than the truth, and the implications thereof, that this world is not our home. When it finally settles into the heart and mind of the believer that we are “aliens and strangers in the world” (1 Pet. 2:11; cf. also Heb. 11:13; 1 Pet. 1:1), many things change. Our **present sufferings** will be viewed against a backdrop of future glory that relegates today’s difficulties to insignificance by comparison.<sup>1</sup>

**Vs 23** - The firstfruits of the Spirit is like a down payment, with a Divine promise that the full measure of the blessing will most certainly come. Christians still suffer from the effects and consequences of the Fall upon their mortal bodies. They know what it means to grow old; they know what it means to experience degeneration and decay; they know what it means to suffer the ravages of disease. But they do not look, like the Greeks, for redemption from the body to a bodiless existence in some kind of amorphous soul; they expect a salvation that redeems both soul and body. The glory given to Christ was manifest in a glorified, resurrected human body, and his glory is the firstfruits of what we are to experience. We too will inherit bodies that are incorruptible and immortal, that will not be subjected to pain, disease, suffering and death. We know these things will come to pass because God has promised them. But in the meantime, having experienced the taste of the firstfruits of the Spirit, like the rest of the created order we groan in the expectancy of childbirth, waiting for the full measure of the manifestation of the sons of God.<sup>2</sup>

**8:18** — The Bible never minimizes our difficulties or sufferings; instead, it magnifies the rewards that accompany our faith. It doesn’t say, “you don’t really hurt,” but instead declares, “you’ll feel far better than you ever have.”

**8:28** — *And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.*

On this side of heaven, we will never understand *how* “all things” can work together for good for God’s children—certainly, not all things in themselves are good—but God knows how He’ll do it. And in Him we trust.<sup>3</sup>

The Christian faith is never presented in Scripture as a static relationship. A person’s salvation is not something that took place sometime in the past with little or no impact in the present. By definition, a relationship is a continuing affair. A vital ongoing love for God is the necessary prerequisite for his active intervention in the affairs of our life. From the human side, we love God. From God’s side, we are called in accordance with his purpose. By calling Paul meant an effectual calling—one in which our response is invariably positive.<sup>4</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Boa, K., & Kruidenier, W. (2000). *Romans* (Vol. 6, p. 257). Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

<sup>2</sup> Sproul, R. C. (1994). *The Gospel of God: An Exposition of Romans* (pp. 142–143). Great Britain: Christian Focus Publications.

<sup>3</sup> Stanley, C. F. (2005). *The Charles F. Stanley life principles Bible: New King James Version* (Ro 8:18–28). Nashville, TN: Nelson Bibles.

<sup>4</sup> Mounce, R. H. (1995). *Romans* (Vol. 27, p. 188). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.