

## Romans 8: 18-25 (NIV)

18 I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. 19 For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. 20 For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

22 We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. 23 Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. 24 For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? 25 But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

### Questions/Main Points:

- What do our present sufferings look like today? How does it feel when Paul says our sufferings are not worth comparing to the glory that will be revealed in us?
- What is the relationship between the people and creation in this passage? In what ways are we connected to, and have relationship and responsibility to creation?
- How do we see creation being held in bondage and decay and how do we see it groaning?
  - How can we be part of the healing and liberation of creation, as the children of God, even as we wait for full redemption?
- How does Paul broaden the hope of salvation in this passage? What does it mean for your hope now?
- How do we wait *patiently* (Greek meaning: with endurance and steadfastness)? What might that look like in practice? What should our posture and activity be as we wait?