

The Greatest Chapter
Romans 8:19-25
Study Guide

Courtenay Fellowship Baptist Church
November 22, 2020



Introduction

For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

(Romans 8:19-25) ESV.

**Longing for Things to be
Made Right**

Pray that the Holy Spirit would open your hearts to this text and will teach and grow you as you study it.

What have you longed for in your life? Was it a wish (may or may not happen) or a certainty (will for sure happen)?

Read over these verses, what words or ideas stand out to you?



Longing and hope can be one of the great motivators in life. Sometimes the best way to get through difficult times is to have an idea of what is to come after it is over. In these verses, Paul writes that creation and believers should have the same longing. Both should long for things to be made right, a world free of sin! In this present time where things are perverted by sin having a longing for a time where the world is free of sin can get us through the difficult times of life.

1. Creation's Longing

For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.

(Romans 8:19-22)

Creation's Bondage

Eager Longing (*Apokaradokia*) This literally refers to the idea of watching with an outstretched head and implies someone standing on their tiptoes with their eyes looking forward in intense expectancy.

- a. Has there been a time in your life where you have longed for a relationship with someone to be made right?

- b. These verses say that creation is also eagerly longing for everything to be made right. Why do you think creation is so desperately longing for this?

- c. What happened so that creation was 'subjected to futility, not willingly.'? (Gen. 3:16-19)



d. The verses say that creation is waiting for ‘the revealing of the sons of God.’ That is referring to when Christ returns and completes the transformation of all of his followers into his likeness. (1 Jn. 3:2.) According to Revelation 22:3 why would creation be longing for that moment?

Creation’s Anticipation

a. Read Psalm 19:1 and Romans 1:19-20. According to these verses, what is the purpose of creation?

b. Creation is already so incredible and reveals so much about God’s glory. How amazing do you think it will be seeing creation as it was intended to be seen before the fall of man? Is this something that you are longing for?

c. Why do you think Paul compares the groaning of creation’s anticipation to that of the groaning of a woman giving birth?

As in childbirth, the pain is not meaningless but carries with it the hope of the new life for all creation. These groans are birth-pangs, not death-pangs. The current pain will be worth it. -John Calvin

d. Is your longing for this day of everything being made right like the eager longing that creation displays?



2. Our Longing

And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

(Romans 8:23-25) ESV.

Our Waiting

- a. Creation is longing to be redeemed, what are we longing for on the day Christ returns?
- b. Read Matthew 5:48. If you are a Christian what are you called to be?
- c. What hinders us from being what Matthew 5:48 commands us to be?
- d. We cannot be perfect in this world and that is okay because Christ has washed away our sins so that we are perfect in the eyes of God! When Christ returns what happens to our struggle with sin?
- e. Are you eagerly longing for the day that creation is desperately anticipating? Or do you struggle with complacency or being comfortable in this life?



Our Hope

a. Read 2 Timothy 4:7-8 how does this verse connect with Romans 8:24-25?

b. How does hope of what is to come motivate you to 'fight the good fight and finish the race' of life through difficult times?

c. Does having hope that one day you will be in heaven give you strength through trials in this life?

Closing Prayer

Ask God to grow your heart so that you are eagerly longing for the day Jesus will return.

Prayer Requests



