

Groaning for Glory **Romans 8:18-25**

Creation groans for glory—the revelation of the sons of God. 18-19

- Contrast of present suffering vs. future glory = no comparison. And Paul should know! I Cor. 4:17, Heb. 11:25,26, I Pt. 4:13.
- Creation's *anxious waiting* parallels ours in 8:23, 25, as does its personified *groanings* in 23 and suffering in 22.
- Why creation is focused on our future: the hope of freedom from slavery, Gen. 3:17,18, Ecc. Its future is tied to the sons of God and their glorious redemption. See Ps. 65:12,13, 96:11-13, 148:1-14, Isa. 11:6-9, 49:13, Lk. 19:40.
- Any environmental implications here?

Christians groan for glory—our redemption as sons. 23-25

- We groan (7:24, I Cor. 5:2,4, Jn. 16:20-22), knowing we are only half-saved. Experiencing the Spirit's work in our lives guarantees (first fruits) the future completion of our adoption as redeemed sons and thus heirs of God.
- We eagerly wait in hope (4x). Recall *hope* in 4:18, 5:2,4,5, and see Titus 2:13, I Pt. 1:3, Heb.11, II Cor. 4:18.

Paul's prayer for you and me =

