

# Romans 8: God's Love and my Pain

*How can God say he loves us when he lets all kinds of terrible things happen to us?*

Lie 1: My pain means  
that \_\_\_\_\_

(Romans 8:23-30)

God's response to this lie is to remind us  
that \_\_\_\_\_ and waiting for God to set it  
free.

*<sup>22</sup> For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. <sup>23</sup> And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.*

We groan even though we have \_\_\_\_\_.  
It's like we've been given an appetizer.



# Glimpses of God's love 1: \_\_\_\_\_

(Romans 8:23)

Yes, we are all groaning. And right beside that suffering, we see God's love: we are awaiting his \_\_\_\_\_. That is love.

*<sup>24</sup> For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? <sup>25</sup> But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.*

## Glimpse 2: The Spirit

(Romans 8:26-28)

God has given us a Comforter who takes our groanings \_\_\_\_\_.

## Glimpse 3: \_\_\_\_\_

(Romans 8:29-30)

*<sup>29</sup> For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. <sup>30</sup> And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.*

And so Paul encourages us to endure this suffering because we have hope of the day when God will set us free from these bodies of death. We endure this suffering because we *know* that we will be \_\_\_\_\_. We know that Jesus is not suffering in a body of death. We know that God's plan is to rescue us and make us like him. We've been set free to conform to his image.

## Lie 2: My pain means that \_\_\_\_\_

(Romans 8:31-39)

<sup>35</sup> *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?* <sup>36</sup> *As it is written,*

*“For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”*

<sup>38</sup> *For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers,* <sup>39</sup> *nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

- Our pain may be great, but God’s love is greater.
- Death may seem all powerful, but God’s love is more powerful.
- Life may seem overwhelming, but God’s love is even greater than life itself.
- Politicians may seem to make life worse for you, but God’s love is more powerful.
- Today may seem chaotic, but God’s love remains constant.
- Tomorrow seems completely uncertain, but God’s love is guaranteed.
- And then, just to make absolutely sure that he’s covered everything, Paul says that nothing can condemn us, not even “\_\_\_\_\_”. No power, no spiritual being, nothing! Christ’s love is this great! His rescue is this great!
- There is absolutely nothing, anywhere in the universe, at any time in eternity that can make God love you any less.

The message of the gospel does not explain the inexplicable, or restrict its comfort only to those sufferings that are uniquely Christian sufferings, experienced as the direct outworking of the faithfulness of believers. Nor does it work by a kind of hermeneutical alchemy to convert Old Testament lament into Stoic indifference or New Testament assurance. Its effect is not to silence the voice of lament or to convert it into some better, more Christian utterance; it is, rather, to offer assurance that the voice of the lamenter, and of the whole groaning creation, has been heard (and, indeed, that in the groanings of the Spirit the burden of the lament has been shared by God himself) and that it will ultimately find its answer through what God has already accomplished in the death and resurrection of Jesus.

# Application

“I could never do that”

- God has given you the Holy Spirit who is interceding for you. When you find yourself someday with no words to express your pain, the Spirit will be praying on your behalf and appealing to the Father to hold you through your sufferings. Don't be afraid that you'll be unable to manage some future trial. The Spirit will be with you through everything that comes your way.

“Jesus loves them more”

- Nothing can separate you from God's love. So, when Satan lies to you that God loves someone else more than you, remember that nothing, anywhere, at any time could ever separate you from any of God's love. He's never loved you less, and he's not waiting for you to unlock more of his love.

“My pain is too much.”

*You have kept count of my tossings;  
put my tears in your bottle.  
Are they not in your book?  
-Psalm 56:8*

- This world is broken, but the story of the Bible is that God is rescuing his creation and will one day heal all that is broken. Until then, we keep going with hope. Until then we keep going in the glimpses of God's love. We keep going because we know that God hears our groans and still loves us.

