

## GRAB THE GLORY

Romans 8:18-25

The GLORY can be understood to mean “brightness”, “splendor”, “luminosity”, perhaps even “beauty”.

In Romans 8:18-25 Paul shares six characteristics of eternity for the child of God.

- the glory that will be revealed in us . . . vs 18
- the children of God to be revealed . . . vs 19
- creation itself will be liberated . . . vs 21
- creation ... will be ...brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God. vs 21
- our adoption to sonship . . . vs 23
- the redemption of our bodies . . . vs 23

### HOW ARE THE CHILDREN OF GOD TO LIVE NOW IN RELATION TO THEIR ETERNITY?

#### 1. CONSIDER THE GLORY OF ETERNITY:

I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.

Romans 8:18

**Present sufferings** refer to all the suffering that happens this side of eternity. It includes natural disasters, disease, accidents, war, relational breakdowns, death of loved ones and so on.

I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again. Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was pelted with stones, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my own people, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false believers. I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone

without food; I have been cold and naked. Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches.

2 Corinthians 11:23-28

GLORY . . .

We cannot compare its Intensity. We struggle now. We suffer now. But the intensity of the glory will be so great that there is no comparison to the intensity of the suffering. They don't come close. It's like comparing an elephant with a toaster oven.

We cannot compare its Duration. Paul reminds us that we are experiencing “present” sufferings. They are temporary. They are tough but they will not last. But the glory is forever and ever and ever.

The future promise  
is so much better  
than the present pain.

#### 2. WAIT EAGERLY FOR THE GLORY OF ETERNITY:

The creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed.

Romans 8:19

Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

Romans 8:23

Creation waits eagerly

We are to wait eagerly

The future promise  
is so much better  
than the present pain.