

Romans Chapter 8
Week 1, begin v. 18

Many of you have been through labor and delivery of a baby. Consider for a moment the physical burden of carrying a child – perhaps morning sickness in the beginning and extreme tiredness – then consider the physical changes towards the end of pregnancy – swollen ankles, heartburn, itchy stretched skin, hemorrhoids, huge swollen breasts and bladder pressure. Then your body prepares to deliver the baby – it's called labor for a reason! I'm certain some of you have some pretty intense stories. But through all this the value of holding that new life in your arms minimizes anything you had to go through to get there. The journey is nothing when compared to the joy of holding that precious little baby!

What difficult situations have you been through that you wouldn't change because it was worth the end result?

Ro 8:18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

Romans 8:18 begins with the word 'For'. Where does that point us? The word 'for' assigns an explanation for the statement made in verse 17: ...if indeed we suffer with [Him] in order that we may also be glorified with [Him.]

Consider <logizomai> means to take inventory, to estimate; to conclude. The KJV uses the words 'for I reckon'.

Have you ever made a list of pros and cons when trying to make a decision? What does this accomplish?

Start at the beginning of Romans Chapter 8 and make a list of the blessings that are listed for God's children.

No condemnation (v.1); freedom from the law of sin and death (v.2); a mind set on the Spirit leading to life and peace (v.3-6); an indwelling of the Spirit(v.9); imputed righteousness (v.10); eternal life (v.11); a position as a child of God adopted by Him (v.14); the right to call God Father (v.15); assurance through the

Holy Spirit that we are His children(v.16); heirs with Christ; the opportunity to sympathize with His sufferings; the promise of eternal glory (v.17)

When we look at the blessings we have as God's children, then the possibility of facing adversity for a short time seems rather small in comparison.

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Application Questions
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Read the full chapter of Romans 8. These questions are designed to be used as a tool to help you make personal applications from our study. You may want to use your 'Apply It' bookmark to guide you in discovering additional areas of application.

In what area are you currently feeling the pressures of life?

How are you responding to those pressures? Does your response reflect the hope you have in Christ?

Do you believe the words used by Paul in Romans 8:18? How does the truth in this verse encourage you through your 'present sufferings'?

Go through Romans 8 and list the blessings you have as God's child.

How does the list above affect your current circumstances?

Read 2 Corinthians 4:17-18; 1 Peter 1:6-7, 13; 1 Peter 5:10

What does it mean when something is temporal? ...eternal?

Think upon God's faithfulness. What is your testimony of His care in your life through difficult circumstances? How does your past testimony affect your current difficulties?

Read Ephesians 3:16-21

What additional thoughts and questions come to mind as you apply Romans 8:18?

We will continue looking at Romans 8:18 next week!