

Romans 8:18-25, Daily Devotions

☐ Monday - Glory Beyond Compare.

Romans 8:18

In 2 Corinthians 12:1-4, Paul describes an experience in his life in which he was given a glimpse of Heaven. Though the apostle describes this account in the third person, it is evident that he is talking about of himself (cf. 2 Cor. 12:7). Here in Romans 8, the apostle declares, "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" (Rom. 8:18). Now that's an amazing statement, because Paul suffered a lot (1 Cor. 4:9-13; 2 Cor. 11:23-28; Gal. 6:17). Yet compared to the eternal Paradise that he had seen and looked forward to, he called his trials "momentary light affliction" (2 Cor. 4:17). If you are a Christian, then you will experience hardship (John 16:33; Acts 14:22; 2 Cor. 1:5; 2 Tim. 3:12). That is the norm for the Christian life (1 Pet. 4:12, 5:8-9). But when your heart is overwhelmed, "turn your eyes upon Jesus," as the hymn declares: "And the things of earth" (including how big your trials seem), "will grow strangely dim, in the light of His glory and grace."

Read 1 Corinthians 2:9; 1 Peter. 4:19

☐ Tuesday - Paradise Restored.

Romans 8:19-22

After God created the universe, He saw all that He had made and pronounced, "It is very good!" (Gen. 1:31). But when Adam and Eve fell in Eden, not only did it plunge the whole human race into sin and depravity, but all of creation became subject to corruption (cf. Gen. 3:17-18). And so today we may admire the majesty of the Rocky Mountains, or the grandeur of the mighty Atlantic Ocean, but the beauty of this present earth pales in comparison to God's original creation. Yet there is coming a day in which God will create a new heaven and earth from the burned out ashes of this present universe (2 Pet. 3:10-13), and it will literally be heaven on earth. And then "creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God" (Rom. 8:21). Christian, do not store up for yourselves treasures upon the earth (Mt. 6:19-20), for this present world is passing away (1 John 2:17). The best is yet to come.

Read Colossians 3:1-4

☐ Wednesday - First Fruits of the Spirit.

Romans 8:23

Do you ever just make yourself sick by your poor performance? The apostle declares, "And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body" (Rom. 8:23). The Holy Spirit causes us to "groan within ourselves" to be released from these imperfect bodies (Rom. 7:24), and be clothed with a new glorified body. Cheer up, Christian! "He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus" (Phil. 1:6).

Read 1 Corinthians 15:51-53

☐ Thursday - Adopted or Awaiting Adoption?

Romans 8:23

Paul has already stated that we "have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, 'Abba! Father!'" (Rom. 8:15-16), but here declares that we are "waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons" (Rom. 8:23). The former refers to our present position and security as sons of God, and the latter to the fullest realization of that privilege in new glorified bodies throughout eternity!

Read John 1:12-13; Ephesians 1:3-6

☐ Friday - We Walk By Faith Not By Sight.

Romans 8:24-25

The apostle writes, "For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he already sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it" (Rom. 8:24-25). The Christian world is eagerly awaiting Christ's return, a hope that is yet unrealized. And yet we consider Him faithful who promised that He would come again. By faith we believe that "soon and very soon we are going to see the King!"

Read 2 Corinthians 5:7; 1 Peter 1:6-9; John 20:29