

GROANING SAINTS, GROANING SPIRIT

ROMANS 8:23-27

In our last study—before Israel—the creation groans to be set free from ***CORRUPTION OF SIN***.

- Now we see, because of the wonderful work of the Holy Spirit, two more groanings!
- Both the ***church universal*** as well as ***God the Spirit*** Himself groan for that day of the completed work of sanctification and glorification.

FIRST, THE GROANING OF ALL BELIEVERS—THE SAINTS.

I. GROANING SAINTS

- Because of our divinely Holy Spirit-installed “Sin-O-Meter,” *we ourselves groan within ourselves* over the dreadful curse of sin that is still manifested by our remaining humanness.
- Similarly, both David and Paul grieved over the remnants of their humanness that clung to them like a rotten garment that could not be cast off.

ROM. 7:25; 2 COR. 5:4; PSALM 38:4, 9-10

SEALED BY THE SPIRIT

In ancient times, the seal, or signet, was a mark of authenticity or of a completed transaction.

- For example, when Daniel was thrown into the den of lions, King Darius had a large stone placed across the entrance and sealed. **DAN. 6:17**
- In an infinitely more significant way, the Holy Spirit seals the salvation of every believer. Paul spoke this to the Corinthians. **2 COR. 1:21-22**

HOLY SEEDS IN AN UNHOLY SHELL

We love God, hate sin, and have holy longings for obedience to the Word.

- But while on earth, we are still messed up a tad by our mortal bodies, which are still corrupted by sin and its consequences.
- We are incarcerated in a prison of flesh and subjected to its weaknesses and imperfections.

ROM. 7:14-25 and 1 COR. 15:35-41

THE MAGNITUDE OF OUR HOPE

- Our *hope* is not based on wishful thinking or blind good fortune or probability, but on the integrity of the clear promises of the Lord.
- Our *hope* is that, by our Lord's own guarantee, we cannot and will not have salvation taken from us.
- Our hope and salvation do not rest in our choosing God, but in His choosing us (**EPH. 1:4**). We are in His hands and He drops no balls.

II. GROANING SPIRIT

“In the same way,” (v. 26) refers back to the groans of the creation and of believers for redemption from the corruption and defilement of sin.

- The Spirit of God works unrelentingly in us to do what we could never do alone—bring about the perfect will of God.
- Examples: our prayer lives, Jesus and Peter, Paul’s thorn in the flesh. **LUKE 22:31-32; 2 COR. 12:3-9**

ETERNAL LIFE IS “ETERNAL”

To have faith in Jesus Christ and to have eternal life are scripturally synonymous. **JOHN 10:28**

- In Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit, we are secure, safe and sound, heaven-kept, and heaven-bound.
- While we are here there will be a bit of groaning—***Creation, God’s Kids,*** and the ***Holy Spirit***—but only until the full glory of God is revealed in all things.