

GOD FOR US: A Study in Romans 8

Awaiting the Day - Romans 8:19-22

July 30, 2017

For creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. - **Romans 8:19**

I. WAITING FOR THE DAY (vs. 19)

- Creation is waiting with us for our redemption. The “old creation” is waiting for the “new creation” to be renewed (1 Cor. 15:22-26).
- Creation groans and eagerly awaits as we groan and eagerly await (vs. 19, 22, 23).

II. COSMIC SUFFERING (vs. 20)

- Paul moves from human suffering to cosmic suffering. The collateral damage of human sin was frustration and futility for the created order (Gen. 3:17-19; Rom. 5:12-21).
- Paul personifies creation and makes clear that this futility was not by choice, but by fiat. God subjected creation (Gen. 3:17-19).
- Death currently reigns over nature. It is using more energy than it is producing.
- For now, all is vanity (futility). But that will change (Eccl. 1:2; 12:8; Rev. 22:3).

III. FUTURE HOPE (vss. 21-22)

- The glory that will be revealed includes the glory of a new heaven and a new earth (vss. 20-22; Isa. 65:17; 66:22; 2 Pet. 3:11-13; Rev. 21:1-3).
- Creation, again personified, is in pain as if in childbirth...but childbirth anticipates the joy of new life (Gen. 3:16).

KNOW: All creation waits for the final consummation. It is waiting for our glory so that it can share in that glory.

DO: Live in eager anticipation for yours, and creation’s, redemption.

Recommended Reading:

Heaven by Randy Alcorn (LifePoint Library # 236 ALC)

Recovering Eden by Zach Eswine

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please read Romans 8:19-22

1. What awaits in the future for creation?
2. Who subjected creation to futility? Why?
3. What causes creation to groan now? Are there things that cause you to groan on this side of heaven?
4. Read Romans 5:12-17 and discuss as a family/group.
5. What should we be anticipating and hoping for in our future?
6. What steps can you take to increase your own hope for what God has in store for your future?