

# “Groans of Holy Hope”

Romans 8:18-27

What, in your life, “speaks?”

What are the various “voices” of your life saying?

Who (*and how many*) people are listening to you ALL the time?

Is there any time that you think God doesn’t care about what you’re saying?

## I. GROANS FROM CREATION (8:18-22)

**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.

**19** For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God.

**20** For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope **21** that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

**22** For we know that **the whole creation groans** & suffers the **pains of childbirth** together until now.

**\*\*\* VIDEO: Groans from Creation (prophetic “pains of childbirth” / “birth-pains”)**

**Matthew 24 -- Signs of the End of the Age = 1** Jesus left the temple and was walking away when his disciples came up to him to call his attention to its buildings. **2** “Do you see all these things?” he asked. “I tell you the truth, not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down.” **3** As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. “Tell us,” they said, “when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?” **4** Jesus answered: “Watch out that no one deceives you. **5** For many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am the Christ, and will deceive many. **6** You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. **7** Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. **8** All these are the **beginning of birth pains**.”

**9** “Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. **10** At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, **11** and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. **12** Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, **13** but he who stands firm to the end will be saved. **14** And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

- A. Just look around....
- B. There is nothing new under the sun...
- C. We live in a world that is painfully and undeniably “broken.”

We try to explain everything into a nice, clean, “manageable” box... We are afraid to admit and accept the reality of a broken world... a broken reality... a broken ME...

We try to ignore & explain away the groaning of creation...

We want to see by all as “brilliant” instead of broken...

That is sad, superficial, SIN...

It is factually wrong... it is faith-less worship of self!

## II. GROANS FROM CHRISTIANS (8:23-25)

**23a** *And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit,*

**\*\*\* Christians have God’s promise on deposit...**

**Ephesians 1:13-14** = *And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, **14** who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance...*

**2 Corinthians 1:21-22** = *Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, **22** set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.*

**23b** *even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.*

**Note difference between Moaning vs. Groaning....**

“heaven is horrified...” – Jeremiah

Matt Chadler illustration:

Horrified at the lack of “fear” of God

People told all you have to do is quote the sinner’s prayer...

People told all you have to do is adhere to “good behavior”/church stuff

**Too many “groan FOR sin” vs “groan FROM sin”**

**John 4:34...** “My food is to do the will of THE Father....

“unless a grain of wheat should die and go into the ground....”

“...but if it dies it brings forth much fruit...”

Do we groan to TRULY BE LIKE JESUS (no matter what)... = a death sentence (Gal. 2:20)

Your prayer life says more about you than your performance (including preaching performance)

Deut. 6... passion = repetition & total consumption with God and His ways (out of love vs obligation)

“We all like sheep have gone astray” – our groans should be like lost sheep crying out for the Shepherd!

**24** For ***in hope we have been saved***, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he already sees? **25** But if we hope for what we do not see, ***with perseverance we wait eagerly for it.***

- A. What in your life speaks?
- B. The tragic sadness of spiritual silence...
- C. By contrast... there resounding symphony of glorious & groans from Christians...
  - a. Christians groan within:
    - a.i. True Christians can't wait to be with Jesus
    - a.ii. When Jesus is the true desire of your heart...
  - b. Groans of Hope...
  - c. **Hope:** a “feeling” to people of the world, ***a FACT for children of the One true God!***
  - d. **1 Peter 1:3-5** = *Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, **4** and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you, **5** who through faith are shielded by God's power...*
  - e. **Hebrews 6:19** = *We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.*
  - f. Jesus promised not to lose ANY of His...
  - g. Jesus is either the LORD, a liar, or a lunatic...
    - g.i. **John 10:28** = *I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand.*
  - h. **True members of the “body of Christ” can't slip through God's fingers...**
    - h.i.1. **Matthew 13** (the weeds vs the wheat)
    - h.i.2. **John 15** (the fruitless branches)
  - i. **Hope not truly anchored in Christ & confirmed by the Spirit is false hope.**

## **Moan & Mope vs. Groans of Hope....**

### **III. GROANS FROM OUR CHAMPION (8:26-27)**

**26a** *In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness;*

**26b** *for we do not know how to pray as we should,*

**26c** *but **the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings** too deep for words;*

**1 John 2:1, 3-6** = *My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; 3 We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands. 4 The man who says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him. 5 But if anyone obeys his word, God's love[b] is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in him: 6 Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.*

**27** *and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.*

- A. **Christians have God “for” us (1 John 2) and “in” us (Romans 8:26-27)...**
  - a. **Hebrews 7:25** = *He (Jesus) is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.*
  
- B. **“Inter-trinitarian” groans**
  - a. **1 Corinthians 2:10b-11** = *the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. 11 For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God.*
  
- C. These **holy groans are the Spirit’s help for our welfare in warfare**
  - a. **Philippians 2:12-13** = *So then, my beloved... work out your salvation with fear and trembling; 13 for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.*
  
  - b. **Philippians 3:20-21** = *But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.*

**True, “crucified Christians” live surrounded by a groaning cosmos & creation... as they themselves are a living symphony of gospel-groans; all the while, being loved, lifted up, & carried in the blessings of the Spirit’s intra-trinitarian groans on the biblical-believer’s behalf... Amen!**

**The Holy Spirit doesn’t just convert us... He carries us!**

**Our Advocate & our Interpreter KEEP US “according to God’s will” – Amen!**

**Titus 3:4-7** = *But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, **5** He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, **6** whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, **7** so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.*

**And don’t ever forget....**

**He GROANED FIRST!** (because He loves you!!!)

**Gal. 3:13** (Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law by becoming the curse FOR us)

**He GROANS NOW!** (because He loves you!!!)

**He GROANS for YOU!** Because He loves you!!!