

## THOUGHTS FOR SERMONS

**Romans 8:18**                      **"Sufferers, Compensation is Coming" (Not entirely original with me)**

**Introduction:** Sooner or later everyone undergoes something very difficult, even terrible and often painful, distressful and heart breaking. Sometimes it is a mental thing, sometimes it is a physical thing, but every person undergoes suffering to some extent and degree. However there is an assurance, a promise that for some all their sufferings on earth will be compensated, made up for, a "pay back" time. Those fortunate and blessed people are Christians.

**1. "...For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us..." Romans 8:18**

- Under the direction of the Holy Spirit, Paul penned these words and he was very experienced in suffering.
  - *2 Corinthians 11:24-27*
- Hated by his kinsmen, beaten several times, stoned and left for dead, imprisoned, lived on the bare necessities of life, ultimately killed.
  - How could he possibly have this positive, even happy optimism?

**2. The sufferings of the Christian are but for a brief duration.**

- Sufferings of the Christian are limited to this present time - one's life here on earth.
  - This is contrary to the unbeliever for he/she will suffer for all eternity, in a lake of fire.
- A few short years and the Christian will pass from today's tears and pain into that wonderful city, country, place where groans of pain and sighs of distress are never heard.

**3. The Christian looks forward with eyes of faith to that coming day of glory.**

- This is a real test of one's faith that during trying hours of distress, there is the most wonderful thought that someday he/she will be able to lay down all troubles.
- The Christian knows that there is fullness of joy in the presence of God whereas the unbeliever has not that joy, hope and promise.
- As Israel, in the wilderness was encouraged by the thought, the sight, of what lay in wait for them in that promised land, they eventually made it to that promised place.
  - So the one who walks, lives by faith and not by sight, thinking about that which his/her eye cannot see, nor his/her ear can hear, trusting God to bring it all to pass.

**4. The Christian is not able nor capable of understanding it all at this time but his/her faith trusts God to bring it all to pass.**

- There will be the glory of a perfect body.
  - Corruption putting on incorruption
  - Mortal putting on immortality
  - Buried in dishonor because of sin, raised in the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ.
  - The image of the earthly vile body changed to the image and likeness of the heavenly likeness of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- There will be the glory of a transformed mind.
  - *"...Now seeing through a glass darkly, but then face to face, now knowing in part, but then knowing as being known." (1 Corinthians 13:12)*
- What capability of understanding, all mysteries unraveled, all problems solved, all confusion reconciled.
- Christian, rejoice in the hope of the glory that will be revealed to you on THAT DAY.

## **5. The Christian will be perfectly holy.**

- God's work of grace in the Christian will be completed.
  - Totally pure.
  - Conformed to the image of Jesus Christ.
  - Shall see the Lord Jesus Christ, Himself.
  - Minds no longer defiled by evil thoughts.
  - Consciences no more troubled by senses of guilt.
  - Affections no more entrapped by unworthy things or thoughts.

## **CONCLUSION:**

1. When that great day happens for the Christian, then will come to pass what Paul wrote about, that this earthly life with all it's sadness and pain is not worthy to be compared with the new, heavenly life.
2. One second of glory will outweigh a lifetime of earthly suffering.
  - What were the years of toil, sickness, sorrow when compared to the glory of what the Christian will experience upon leaving this human life.
3. ***"...For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed to us..."***
4. May the Holy Spirit enable every Christian to lay hold of this great truth and live in great expectation of it coming to pass in his/her life.