Waiting Eagerly

Concerning the election.

We prayed for a certain outcome in the election. God answered our prayers. "What!!!" you say.

Just because the answer is not what we wanted doesn't mean it isn't what we need Philippians 4:19.

> **Philippians 4:19 And my God will supply <u>all your needs</u> according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus**

This election was a referendum on America. In particular, it was a referendum on Christian believers in America. As one pastor said, "As goes the Christian, so goes the nation." As another pastor once said, most churches are nurseries for baby believers. If there are very few mature Christians, then sure, America will be impacted in an anti-Christian way. And anti-Semitism has seeped into our politics.

God is still in charge.

So, what is the agenda for Christians? It starts by growing in grace, reaching maturity. That means we should redouble our efforts at Hebrews 4:1-2.

> **Hebrews 4:1 Therefore, let us fear if, while a promise remains of entering His rest, any one of you may seem to have come short of it.**

> **Hebrews 4:2 For indeed we have had good news preached to us, just as they also; but the <u>word</u> they heard did not profit them, because it was not united by <u>faith</u> in those who heard.**

First, we should concentrate our efforts to stay in fellowship: Romans 8:4 walk by the Spirit.

> **Romans 8:3 For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God *did*: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and *as an offering* for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh,**
>
> **Romans 8:4 so that the (**righteous**) requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who <u>do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit</u>.**

We should already have been doing that. It is interesting that Paul, and other writers of the New Testament, sometimes teach a positive through a negative illustration. As here, do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

Second, we should be consistent in the study of Bible doctrine or as I say, Bible answers 2 Timothy 2:15.

> **2 Timothy 2:14 Remind *them* of these things, and solemnly charge *them* in the presence of God not to wrangle about words, which is useless *and leads* to the ruin of the hearers.**

> **2 Timothy 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.**
>
> **2 Timothy 2:16 But avoid worldly *and* empty chatter, for it will lead to further ungodliness,**
>
> **2 Timothy 2:17 and their talk will spread like gangrene.**

We should already have been doing that.

Third, be aware of opportunities to give the gospel John 3:16/Acts 16.

> **John 3:16 "For (**in this manner**) God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.**
>
> **Acts 16:29 And he (**Philippian jailer**) called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas,**
>
> **Acts 16:30 and after he brought them out, he said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"**
>
> **Acts 16:31 They said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household."**

We should already have been doing this. It may have been as simple as living our lives as illustrations to non-believers: witness of the life. We let the Holy Spirit guide us.

Fourth, encourage other believers to walk according to the Spirit, Romans 8:4.

> **Romans 8:3 For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God *did*: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and *as an offering* for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh,**
>
> **Romans 8:4 so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.**

Fifth, encourage other believers to study Bible doctrine with the intent of achieving maturity. Hebrews 4:12/2 Tim 2:16.

> **Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.**
>
> **2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;**
>
> **2 Timothy 2:17 so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.**

Sixth, continue to pray for America, 1 Timothy 2:1-2.

1 Timothy 2:1 First of all, then, I urge that entreaties *and* prayers, petitions *and* thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men,

1 Timothy 2:2 for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity.

Lastly, as we progress toward the Rapture and Tribulation that follows, we know that the world will rush toward corruption. God is allowing the Devil to put his plan in place in preparation for the Tribulation. That means the rapture is drawing ever closer.

Our response to the results of the election should not be hatred. As I have said previously, many times, hatred is wrong. Hatred is a sin. It takes us out of fellowship and puts us under the domination of the sin nature. Acknowledge your sin and move into faith dependence on the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 5:16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.

Galatians 5:25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

Colossians 2:6 Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, *so* walk in Him,

> **Colossians 2:7 having been firmly rooted *and now* being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, *and* overflowing with gratitude.**

Do not be discouraged. God is still in charge. But anti-God attitudes, anti-God actions and anti-Semitic actions will be judged just as they were in the book of Judges. Continue to pray for America and her leaders.

Starting in January 2027, there are likely to be difficulties (various kinds of sufferings) and things to distract us from our walk. Keep focus on the spiritual life.

Waiting Eagerly
Romans 8:18-26

Last week we did a bird's eye view of Romans 8:18-26. Today, let us look at the verses on a more intimate level.

> **Romans 8:18 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.**

For. Here we start another short series of "*gar*" statements. Remember, this is a Greek conjunction that explains something. Paul is going to relate suffering's beneficial result to the previous verse.

Consider. The Greek word is the source of our word for logic. This is Paul's logical thinking. It is *present middle indicative*. *Middle voice* is reflexive. Paul himself is thinking logically. *Present tense* is an ongoing thought.

Sufferings. This links Paul's logical thinking to what he said about suffering in the previous verse. The "*gar*" conjunction links the two verses indicating that this verse is an explanation or an advance on that one.

What did he mention in the previous verse?

> **Romans 8:17b … (**we are**) fellow heirs with Christ if indeed we suffer with *Him* so that we may also be glorified with *Him*.**

Suffering while "walking according to the Spirit" (Romans 8:4) leads to glory. "So that" expresses purpose. A purpose of suffering is that Christ is glorified and we ourselves are glorified by the work of the Spirit in us. As a reminder, John narrated Jesus saying the same thing using different words. In this case, it is "the works of God."

> **John 9:1 As He (**Jesus**) passed by, He saw a man blind from birth.**
>
> **John 9:2 And His disciples asked Him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he would be born blind?"**
>
> **John 9:3 Jesus answered, "*It was* neither *that* this man sinned, nor his parents; but *it was* so that the works of God might be displayed in him.**

There was a college student who once asked a pastor "How do I grow fast as a Christian?" The student got the answer "Ask for lots of suffering."

The logical answer from the girl might have been "Why would I do that?" The umbrella answer is that you glorify God and you yourself become glorified.

The girl might have responded, "Is it worth it?" Paul's answer: "...sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us." "Yes, it is worth it, by leaps and bounds." It might not seem that way at the time. James encourages us.

> **James 1:2 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various <u>trials</u>,**

Trials. One of the words used for the Devil's testing of Jesus in Luke 4:13.

> **James 1:3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.**

> **James 1:4 And let endurance have *its* perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.**

So Paul expects the reader to flinch at the thought of a possible benefit to suffering. In verse 17 he says it is for our glory and Christ's glory. Purpose. And as James indicates, we grow spiritually as a result.

> **Romans 8:18 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.**

A more literal translation: For (continuing from the previous verse) I logically conclude (from divine viewpoint) that not worthy (or not comparable) (are) the sufferings of the present time facing the glory to be revealed to us.

To be compared. This should actually be in italics. It is inferred by the text. There is no word "to be compared" in the text but it is needed in the English translation. The word "with" comes from the Greek word προς *pros*. Face to face.

Not worthy. This is where "not comparable" is implied from.

To be revealed. This is not a future tense. It is implied. Here it is an *aorist* indicating a point in the future.

To us. This is the Greek word εις, *eis*. It is not "in" us but toward us. This glory is not something static but has motion *toward* us. Spirituality is not something static. It is dynamic propelling us forward into the future.

It is not "back to the future" but forward to the future.

So we have present sufferings which are face to face with future glory. Paul's divine viewpoint says the face-off shows how insignificant our suffering is when matched against future glory. In the Bible we have assets with which to weather the suffering. Those have been covered in other lessons.

Paul's thinking is that from chapters 6 & 7, we are to avoid sin. It is not compatible with our spiritual position in Christ. In Romans 8:4 we are to walk according to the Spirit. In the normal walk of a Christian there will be suffering encountered. Some small. Some large. We will all suffer in a fallen world living in a fallen body. But while walking according to the Spirit there is an overwhelming benefit. God's glory will be revealed toward us as a result. This result dwarfs the suffering in comparison. And remember. God provides what we need.

> **Philippians 4:19 And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.**

Interesting. Paul in Philippians links the fulfillment of our needs to Christ's glory. At some point there needs to be a lesson delving into God's glory. Just not today.

> **Romans 8:19 For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God.**

Waits eagerly. This is a single word in the Greek that means "waits eagerly." This looks forward to what God is going to do. For Paul, this must be an important word since he uses it three times in Romans 8. Here in this verse, creation waits eagerly.

Creation. Not just humans. Not just the earth. But "creation."

Waiting Eagerly
Romans 8:18-26

When Adam sinned in the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve were thrown out of the garden and for a lack of a better word, "cursed" with a perishable body and no human spirit. At the same time, creation, in particular, earth was cursed. At the end of the Millennium there will be a new perfected heaven and earth (Revelation 21).

> **Genesis 3:17 Then to Adam He said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat from it'; Cursed is the ground because of you; In toil you will eat of it All the days of your life.**

Ground. Depending upon context, this Hebrew word has a spectrum of meanings stretching from "soil" to "land" to "country." It is from the same root word as "man" or "Adam." Here the ground is contained in the whole earth.

> **Isaiah 24:1 Behold, the LORD lays the earth waste, devastates it, distorts its surface and scatters its inhabitants.**
>
> **Isaiah 24:2 And the people will be like the priest, the servant like his master, the maid like her mistress, the buyer like the seller, the lender like the borrower, the creditor like the debtor.**
>
> **Isaiah 24:3 The earth will be completely laid waste and completely despoiled, for the LORD has spoken this word.**

Isaiah 24:4 The earth mourns *and* withers, the world fades *and* withers, the exalted of the people of the earth fade away.

Isaiah 24:5 The earth is also polluted by its inhabitants, for they transgressed laws, violated statutes, broke the everlasting covenant.

Isaiah 24:6 Therefore, a curse devours the earth, and those who live in it are held guilty. Therefore, the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men are left.

Romans 8:20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope

Hope. Remember, the Greek word means "confident expectation." Though the earth is currently cursed, God will in the future restore the earth to the "new earth." We who are saved by faith look forward to a creation that is blessed. Having been justified/saved in the past we now look forward.

Romans 8:21 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.

Glory. We will be glorified with Christ in the future. Jesus mentions that in His High Priestly prayer in John 17.

> **Romans 8:22 For we know that the whole creation <u>groans</u> and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.**

Groans. This is from a word group meaning to sigh, to groan. I see it as an expression of emotion. If the creation groans, it has been characterized as a living being. So the groaning would be like an anthropopathism. It has a prefix that means "with." So it is to grown with. The question then is groan with whom or what? My suggestion is that the creation is made up of many parts. Each of the parts groans in unison.

> **Romans 8:23 And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves <u>groan</u> within ourselves, waiting eagerly for *our* adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.**

Waiting eagerly. The second use of this word which indeed means to "wait eagerly." In this case, we, believers in Jesus Christ, wait eagerly.

Groan within ourselves. This suggests it is an inaudible groaning. We think it.