

REMNANT CHURCH SERMON NOTES – ROMANS 8: 18
PREACHED ON MAY 17, 2026, BY REV. B.B. ANUM-HIGHER

18 I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.

➤ **INTRODUCTION**

- Last week in verse 17, the apostle Paul told us that there is a future glory for all of God's sons and daughters. He also indicated that there is a condition for sharing in the glory of Christ: it is by sharing in His suffering. God has an order, a pattern, by which both His beloved Son, Jesus Christ, and His adopted sons and daughters, the Christians, attain glory. The order is this: first pass through suffering for the sake of Christ, and then the glory follows afterward. Jesus suffered the cross before the crown. Suffering prepares us for the glory, the new life.
- Every true Christian would therefore go through sufferings before he or she shares in God's glory in the future, just as Christ went through suffering before entering into glory. The true Christian cannot escape trials, sorrow, agony, pain, persecution, and other forms of suffering. The suffering described here is not the kind of suffering that has come upon the Christian because he or she has committed a crime, done something foolish or evil, and is paying the consequences, but rather the insults, persecution, and pain we endure because of our faith, because of our commitment to Christ.

➤ **THE NATURE OF THE FUTURE GLORY**

- Paul used this expression, "the glory that will be revealed in us." This is not just a glory we will see in Heaven; it is more profound than that. It is the glory we will enter into, the glory we will experience for ourselves. How is this future glory going to be? The Bible does not give us all the details of what God has prepared for His children, but we have enough information from Scripture to rejoice about what the next life will be like for God's children. All of God's children will be glorified, and our glorification includes the resurrection of the body, where we will be given a new, immortal body free from sin.
- Our salvation will be completed, we will have the full realization of our salvation, and all of God's children will participate in the divine nature. In Philippians 3:20-21, Paul speaks of the transformation of our earthly bodies: "But our citizenship is in heaven, and we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables Him to subject all things to Himself, will transform our lowly bodies to be like His glorious body."
- As part of our glorification, the Christian will be like Christ in holiness. We will immediately be like Him, exactly like Him. In 1John 3:2-3, the Apostle John writes, "Beloved, we are now children of God, and what we will be has not yet

been revealed. We know that when Christ appears, we will be like Him, for we will see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure." The Apostle Peter also touches on this theme in 1 Peter 5: 10, where he assures believers that "after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself restore you, secure you, strengthen you, and establish you."

- We will be as loving as Christ, joyful as Him, have eternal peace like Him, have patience like Him, be gentle and kind like Him, have goodness, faithfulness, and self-control like Him. In the twinkle of an eye, all true believers will be changed when we see Him. There will be a metamorphosis. The only things that will limit us in heaven are the will of God and the fact that we are still God's creatures.
- We will be having real, actual human bodies as created by God, not subject to sin and death and suffering. We will maintain our appearance, so we will look like the people we were on Earth. Jesus, when He resurrected and ascended, looked like the Jesus he was; we will also look like the people we were. We will be able to recognize each other. At the Transfiguration of Christ, though Moses and Elijah had departed this world centuries prior, they were recognized when they appeared. Both of them remained distinct persons who had not lost their identity, and so will we. Abraham, Lazarus, and the rich man were all recognizable after death according to Luke 16. After death, we will still be recognizable to each other, but with a glorified body. I will look like Benjamin, and you will look like you.
- God loves His beloved Son, Jesus Christ, so much that He wants to fill the New Earth and New Heaven with so many Christs, holy people. He wants to give us a greater glory than Adam and Eve had and later lost. Heaven will be filled with glorified people. All the things we do not have answers to now will be clearly revealed to us. In glory, we will understand clearly the purposes of God in our sufferings. Paul now fully understands why he went through all his sufferings on earth.

➤ **A COMPARISON – PRESENT SUFFERING AND THE FUTURE GLORY**

- In verse 18, the apostle describes his reaction to his many sufferings as an apostle and a believer. He tells us that he has come to a logical conclusion after weighing his current sufferings for Christ and the future glory that awaits him, and this is the verdict: "I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us." Paul, a man for the sake of Christ who has been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again.
- Several times he was beaten, stoned, three times he was shipwrecked, he spent a night and a day in the open sea, he was in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my fellow Jews, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false believers. He had labored and toiled, often going without sleep; he had known hunger and thirst, and had often gone without food. He has been cold and naked, and daily faced the pressure of his concern for all the churches he had planted. Paul, a man accustomed to suffering, says the future glory cannot be compared

to his present suffering and our present sufferings.

- The words used when Paul wrote that “I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing” were used by accountants at the time of Paul to examine or evaluate two things. An accountant would draw a table with two columns, one for income and the other for expenditure. He or she will now compare the two and make a conclusion. Paul is saying that after he had evaluated or examined all of the sufferings the believers have to endure for Christ and then compared them to the future glory, he has come to the conclusion that the two are not worth comparing.
- The apostle draws a table with two columns: one for the present suffering and the other for the future glory, and he concludes that there is a great disproportion between the two. One is much bigger and more joyous than the other. The sufferings of this present world have no resemblance to the immensity of the glory that is to be revealed in us. We will suffer and do suffer, but Paul says he is absolutely certain that what is coming for the Christian, the glory of the future life, will make my sufferings and your sufferings seem like nothing. Our sufferings are only temporary, but the glory will be eternal, permanent, or forever.
- Oftentimes, you will read in the obituaries of non-Christians “Rest in Peace” and hear people console mourners with words such as “Your beloved is now at peace, no more pain from his or her cancer and other diseases.” This is very untrue. When a non-Christian suffers to death, that is not the end of his or her suffering; the worst is yet to come for the non-Christian. The sufferings non-Christians go through on the earth are just the beginning of their future and severe sorrows in the next life. The future dwelling of the non-Christian is described as a place of misery and suffering; hell is where torment and anguish never cease, eternal regrets or gnashing of teeth, a place of weeping, burns like fire, and worms never die.
- For the true Christians, this present life is our hell, and our best is yet to be. Non-Christians, on the other hand, are yet to experience their worst, and this present life is their heaven. Only those who suffer with Christ will taste glory and have peace in the next life. Every true believer must know that he or she will suffer for Christ because suffering and glory are tied together. The apostle Paul wrote in Philippians 3:10-11, “I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.”
- Jesus says, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.” Being a Christian is a call to self-abasement and self-sacrifice. One must be willing to suffer daily in order to follow Jesus. It involves daily choices to serve Christ that inflict pain on us, making us lose significant things such as our reputation, life, income, possessions, and relationships, in order to share in Christ's glory. Being a true Christian is a call for a lonely life, and the more you commit yourself to Him, the narrower the way becomes, the fewer your friends and family.
- Paul says that when you compare the present suffering and the future glory, we must not give up in our suffering. No wonder Moses chose to be identified with the suffering of his people, the Israelites, for the future glory. Moses rejected the

privileges of Egyptian royalty and prioritized spiritual over material wealth and status. Listen to what the author of Hebrews wrote about Moses. In Hebrews 11: 24-27. "By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward. By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible."

- We can learn from Moses' example that the way to endure suffering for Christ is to think about the coming glory and the promises of God, and to know that nothing in this world can compare to it. Listen to what Jesus told Peter in Matthew 19: 27-29: "Peter answered him, 'We have left everything to follow you! What then will there be for us?' Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life."
- Comparing the present sufferings to the future glory that will be revealed in us is like comparing a grain of sand to the Himalayas, a teaspoonful of water to the Pacific Ocean, our little planet Earth to the Cosmos, and a bacteria to a blue whale. Clearly, one is not worth comparing to the other.

➤ **CONCLUSION**

- By God's plan, we suffer now and then to be glorified in the future. I am sure that one of the reasons God decrees suffering in our lives is to test our faith if it is genuine. Our reaction to adversity, pain, and sorrow reveals how committed we are to God and how much we love Him. In Matthew 13:20-21, the Parable of the Sower, Jesus describes people who receive the word with joy but "fall away" when trials or persecution arise because they have no root. The gospel does not call us to shallow commitment to spiritual teachings. True faith shows through challenges and hardships.
- Christianity without suffering for Christ or for righteousness is not Biblical Christianity. The true sons and daughters suffer because they are united with Christ, who also suffered. If you are living a life and have never suffered for righteousness' sake, then you have to examine yourself whether you are in the faith. There is always a cost to be a child of God. There is a cost when you place God before money, righteousness before promotion, family before your organization, and worship before a busy work life. There will be a cost when, as a young girl or boy, you decide to take your commitment to Christ seriously; you will be mocked, isolated, bullied at school, etc.
- The disciples Jesus chose and made apostles were all young men when they were chosen, and they left everything to follow Him. Peter said in Matthew 19, "We have left everything to follow you!" They left the comfort of their families and

friends, promising careers, houses, etc. They chose to be placed in jail, and most of them were martyred for Christ's sake. They suffered with Christ because of the glory ahead.

- Church history is full of elderly people who didn't use their retirements to go on vacations and be idle; they used the rest of their lives advancing the kingdom, and it cost them their comfort, finances, relationships, health, etc. The glory we all look up to comes by a certain means, and suffering is the instrument God uses to produce this glory in us. There is no such thing as escapism in Christianity.
- It is God who has decreed these sufferings in our lives when we believe and entrust ourselves to Him. Suffering serves a great purpose in our sanctification, such as humbling us, redirecting our attention to Christ, cutting our ties with certain people who lead us to immoral lives, etc. Suffering for Christ, therefore, does not separate us from the love of God.
- My brothers and sisters in the Lord, let me end with the words of the apostle Paul to the Corinthians: "Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal." 2 Corinthians 4:16-18.