

## God Hears Your Groaning

Romans 8:18-25  
December 6, 2009

## Perspective on Suffering

- Suffering is part of life
- We have a glorious future

## *Eternal Weight of Glory*

"<sup>16</sup>Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. <sup>17</sup>For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an **eternal weight of glory** far beyond all comparison, <sup>18</sup>while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal."  
(2 Cor. 4:16-18)

## Creation is Groaning

- The world isn't the way it was created to be
- The world will one day be renewed
- Creation is groaning for deliverance

## We are Groaning Too

- Our groaning

## *Our Groaning*

"<sup>1</sup>For we know that if the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. <sup>2</sup>For indeed in this *house* we **groan**, longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven, <sup>3</sup>inasmuch as we, having put it on, will not be found naked. <sup>4</sup>For indeed while we are in this tent, we **groan**, being burdened, because we do not want to be unclothed but to be clothed, so that what is mortal will be swallowed up by life."  
(2 Cor. 5:1-4)

## We are Groaning Too

- Our groaning
- Hopeful groaning

## *Hopeful Groaning*

“The groaning of Christians is not mere grief over the things I mentioned. It is *expectant* grief, that is, grief that looks forward to a time when all that is causing pain will be removed and salvation will be consummated. Christian groaning is a joyful grief that gives birth to a sure hope and patient endurance.” [Boice]

## We are Groaning Too

- Our groaning
- Hopeful groaning
- Expectant hope

## *A Christian View of Suffering*

1. You will not be surprised when things go wrong in this life.
2. You will not place your ultimate hope in anything human beings can do to improve this world's conditions.
3. You will keep your eyes on Jesus.

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## Additional Information

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Sermon audio can be found on the church web site at <http://cfcberkeley.org/english/> (look under Equipping Ministry/Sermons)