**Three Groans**

**Part 2....a continuation of the MY HOPE sermon**

*Romans 8:18-27*

**1. The Groan of Creation/Nature**

Look at verse 22 again: **We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.**

Paul is simply saying that nature groans in the hope that the creation will be set free from the curse!!!

In Genesis, chapter 3, sin brought about 4 curses

If you listen you’ll hear nature itself groan.

❏ Listen to the ***sighing of the wind***

❏ Listen to the ***roaring of the tide***

❏ Even many birds are singing in a different key

❏ Listen to the ***wolf howl*** in the night air

All nature is singing, but it is a **song of bondage**.

Nature sings ***looking forward to the day***, Paul says, when it shall step into the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

Is there any doubt as to nature’s groaning?

❏ earthquakes

❏ hurricanes

❏ tornadoes

❏ floods

❏ tidal waves

❏ volcanic eruptions

❏ famine

**Our Lord Jesus told us that these things would intensify as His Second Coming draws near. The groaning will become louder and louder.**

**Human nature is groaning as well.**

The media is shouting it to us—***hatred, prejudice, war, murder, rape, abortion, terrorism and the like are on the rise.***

***If you listen you’ll hear the groaning of the unsaved.***

Lost and without hope, fearful—don’t know where to turn in times of trouble.

Everything that lives is subject to disease—animals, birds, fish, flowers, trees.

Everything living is tainted.

***Remember because of the Fall, this earth is under a curse from God.***

**Genesis 3:17: To Adam he said, “Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat of it, cursed is the ground because of you, through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life.’”**

**Genesis 4:11: Now you are under a curse and driven from the ground, which opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand.**

In our text Paul points out the entire natural order, cursed because of man’s sin, groaning in birth pangs for the final deliverance which shall come when Christ is revealed.

**2. The Groan of God’s Children**

**verse 23: Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.**

Life consists of a series of groans...

❏ when we get up

❏ when we’re sick

❏ when that unexpected bill comes

❏ when we get a failing grade

❏ when our car breaks down

❏ when our daughter decides to get married

❏ when the sermon is long

❏ when the dentist says, “You have a cavity.”

***I personally groan spiritually*** because of the mess sin makes in our lives and in the lives of those we love.

I groan because we see gifted people who are wasting their lives.

I groan for that friend or relative that is unsaved and continues to resist the Lord.

I groan for the believer who is backslidden, whose fellowship with God is broken.

John 11, Jesus, as He approached the tomb of His dear friend Lazarus, ***“groaned in His spirit”*** because of what sin had done to the family of Lazarus. He groaned even though He knew that He would soon raise Lazarus from the dead.

***Jesus also groaned***

❏ When He healed the deaf and dumb man (Mark 7)

❏ When He fed the 4,000 (Mark 8) because of their ignorance and lack of faith.

❏ When He approached the city of Jerusalem

❏ In Gethsemane

❏ At Calvary

**We groan in our spirits as well—we groan in disappointment, in bereavement, in sorrow.**

**Paul is quickly reminds us that our groaning is in hope because we know that it is only temporary.**

**2 Cor 4:16-18**

**16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.**

**17 For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.**

**18 So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.**

**3. The Groan of the Spirit**

**Vs.26: In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.**

Did you catch it?

This verse says that there is a groan in the heart of God!

When we don’t know how to pray, He, the Holy Spirit, prays for us. He expresses our feelings for us.

**We have two divine intercessors:**

❏ Jesus at the right hand of God

❏ The Holy Spirit within us

**There are times when we just don’t know how to pray:**

❏ when a dying friend or relative lingers near death

❏ when we’re burdened over the salvation of a loved one

❏ when we’re seeking the Lord’s will in a situation

**Paul wants us to understand that these groanings of nature, of the believer, of the Spirit are one day going to cease.**

God’s groan turns to a shout of victory! Look at the end of THE BOOK!!!!

**Rev 22:1-7;17**

**1 Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb**

**2 down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.**

**3 No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him.**

**4 They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.**

**5 There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.**

**6 The angel said to me, "These words are trustworthy and true. The Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, sent his angel to show his servants the things that must soon take place."**

**7 "Behold, I am coming soon! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy in this book."**

**17 The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life.**