

# The Counselor's Couch: Trembling, Yet Trusting

ROMANS 8:18-25

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■ Central Church

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■ Social Media: #Counselor'sCouch

## If God is Good... Then Why Does He Allow Me to Suffer?

1. Understand that Suffering is **Unavoidable** (19-22).
2. See that Suffering is **Purposeful** (20, 23).
3. Remember that Suffering is **Incomparable** (19, 21, 23-25).

### ROMANS 8:18-25 (ESV)

*“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. <sup>19</sup> For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. <sup>20</sup> For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup> that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup> For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. <sup>23</sup> And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup> For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? <sup>25</sup> But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.”*

### APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. Trials have a way of “taking our breath away.” As you heard this passage preached, what trial do you face that immediately came to mind? How does this passage restore your hope?
2. Suffering is unavoidable because we exist in a broken world. How do we see the brokenness of this world daily? How should these pictures of brokenness affect us after studying this passage?
3. **Read John 16:33, 2 Timothy 3:12, & Matthew 10:22.** The prosperity gospel wrongly proclaims that trials are avoidable if you have enough faith or if you live a godly life. How does our passage today combat that message and set us on a path for joy?
4. Scripture shows that God often uses wicked moments in human history to accomplish great good for his people. Can you think of any examples of this in scripture that give you hope and endurance for your trials?
5. What are some practical ways we routinely consider the coming day of future glory, the days when our bodies will be renewed, creation will be set free, and suffering will only be a memory?

### Quote for the Week. . .

by Robert Murray M'Cheyne



*“Some believers are very surprised when they are called to suffer. They thought they would do some great thing for God, but all God permits them to do is to suffer. Just suppose you could speak with those who have gone to be with the Lord; everyone has a different story, yet everyone has a tale of suffering. One was persecuted by family and friends...another was inflicted with pain and disease, neglected by the world...another was bereaved of children...another had all these afflictions. But you will notice that though the water was deep, they all have reached the other side. Not one of them blames God for the road He led them; “Salvation” is their only cry. Are there any of you, dear children, murmuring at your lot? Do not sin against God. This is the way God leads all His redeemed ones.”*