

## SERMON OUTLINE

**SERMON TITLE:** The Problem of Pain

**SERMON REFERENCE:** Romans 8:18-39

**LWF SERMON NUMBER:** #2420

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## 1) INTRODUCTION

- a) There are many kinds of pain.
  - i) Physical pain
  - ii) Emotional pain
  - iii) Spiritual pain
- b) Many times, the pain we suffer is not because of our own choosing.
  - i) We may find ourselves in the middle of wars that we did not declare.
- c) There is immense suffering across the globe.
  - i) Disease
  - ii) Starvation and hunger
  - iii) War and pillage
  - iv) Hatred
  - v) Natural disasters
- d) Problems and pain are real; and if we do not find a solution or an answer to our suffering, it will cause discouragement.
  - i) We may become discouraged in our Christian life.
  - ii) It might even cause rebellion.
    - (1) We may raise a clenched fist to God and question Him.
  - iii) It might even cause doubt.
    - (1) We may look at the pain and suffering and ask “Where is God?”
    - (2) Atheists and agnostics have suggested the problem of suffering boils down to the following options:
      - (a) God cares but has no power to do anything about it.
      - (b) God has the power to do something about it, but He doesn’t care.
      - (c) There is no God at all.
- e) Romans 8:18
  - i) The word “reckon” is a bookkeeping term.
    - (1) The apostle Paul had been doing some figuring and taking inventory, and he had come to the bottom line.
  - ii) The rest of this chapter (Romans 8) shows us three things about the problem of pain as we try to make sense out of suffering.

## 2) YESTERDAY’S CURSE BRINGS BONDAGE (Romans 8:20-22)

- a) Romans 8:20
  - i) The word “creature” refers to creation, all that God created.
  - ii) The word “vanity” means that creation does not reach its original conclusion.
    - (1) Creation is in bondage.
- b) We live in a sin-sick world.
  - i) Romans 8:21-22
  - ii) When Adam sinned, he dragged all of creation down with him.
    - (1) This is the corruption of bondage.
- c) God did not create the world this way; He did not create a sin-sick world.
  - i) God is a good God, and He made everything good.
    - (1) Genesis 1:25

- ii) God made man perfect.
  - (1) God gave man a gift called choice.
    - (a) God made man perfect and perfectly free.
- iii) God did not create evil.
- iv) God gave man choice because God desires that we love Him.
  - (1) The highest good is to love God and to love one another.
  - (2) God does not force us to love Him.
    - (a) Forced love is a contradiction in terms.
    - (b) Forced love is no love at all.
    - (c) In order for us to choose love, we must be able to choose not to love.
  - (3) In order for man to have the ability to choose to love God, he has to have the ability to choose not to love God; otherwise, there is no choice at all.
  - (4) To not love God is evil.
    - (a) The greatest commandment is to love God with all of our being.
    - (b) The greatest sin is to not love God.
- d) When Adam and Eve chose to sin, this world fell into the bondage of corruption.
  - i) Corruption, like a virus, has infected the entire world.
    - (1) This corruption affects each of us since we are part of this world.
- e) If God were to step in and destroy evil, God would also be destroying freedom.
  - i) If God destroyed freedom, He would destroy the opportunity to love.
  - ii) If God destroyed the opportunity to love, then He would destroy the highest good.
- f) Therefore, instead of destroying evil, God defeats evil.
  - i) Jesus Christ, the second Adam, came to this Earth to undo what the first Adam did.
  - ii) On the cross, Jesus Christ defeated evil with His death.
- g) The bondage of corruption
  - i) Romans 8:21-22
  - ii) When Adam and Eve sinned, all of God's creation fell.
    - (1) There came a curse on the animal kingdom.
      - (a) Genesis 3:14
      - (b) What the evolutionist calls the law of the survival of the fittest is creation groaning under the curse.
    - (2) There is a curse on the mineral kingdom.
      - (a) Genesis 3:17
    - (3) There is a curse on the vegetable kingdom.
      - (a) Genesis 3:18
    - (4) There is a curse on the human kingdom.
      - (a) Genesis 1:26
      - (b) Man was meant to have dominion.
      - (c) Man today is morally depraved.
        - (i) Man's mind is depraved.
        - (ii) Man is emotionally depraved and emotionally disturbed.
          - 1. Adam's first words after he sinned were, "I was afraid."
          - 2. God put man in a perfect garden with everything he needed, and now man is afraid.

3. Genesis 3:10

(iii) Man is spiritually diseased.

1. Romans 5:12

iii) Romans 8:22-23

(1) Because our bodies are not yet redeemed, we are not free from pain and suffering.

3) TOMORROW'S CONQUEST BRINGS LIBERTY (Romans 8:21-23)

a) The "adoption" referred to in this passage points to the inheritance of an adopted child.

i) A child adopted into a rich family does not receive the entire sum until he is old enough.

(1) Tomorrow's conquest bring liberty.

b) Ecology cannot fix the groaning of creation.

i) It is tomorrow's conquest, not today's energy, that is going to change this world.

c) There will be a new birth for planet Earth when Jesus comes again.

i) The animal kingdom will be changed.

(1) Isaiah 11:6-9

ii) The mineral kingdom will be changed.

(1) Isaiah 35:1

(a) The Sahara Desert will be like the Garden of Eden.

iii) The vegetable kingdom will be changed.

(1) Isaiah 55:13

iv) The human kingdom will be changed.

(1) Romans 8:23

(2) As believers, we are saved and Heaven-bound, but our bodies are not yet redeemed.

(a) Our bodies will be redeemed when we go to Heaven.

(b) Our redeemed bodies will be like Jesus' glorious body.

(i) Romans 8:18

d) Tomorrow's conquest will bring freedom.

i) Jesus will turn every tear into a pearl.

ii) He will turn every hurt into a hallelujah.

iii) He will turn every defeat into a victory.

iv) Every Calvary will turn into an Easter when Jesus comes again.

4) TODAY'S COMFORT BRINGS HOPE (Romans 8:24)

a) Hope is something that you do not have in your hand but you know is yours.

i) When we have this hope, we understand that the groans we endure are temporary.

b) The apostle Paul uses the word "groan" three times:

i) The groaning of creation

(1) Romans 8:22

(2) Everything is winding down and decaying; coming apart.

ii) The groaning of the Christian

(1) Romans 8:23

- (2) Some of God's choicest of saints have suffered.
- iii) The groaning of the Comforter
  - (1) Romans 8:26
  - (2) There is One in the glory who groans.
  - (3) We serve a God with tears in His eyes; He loves us and cares.
    - (a) 1 Peter 5:7
  - (4) The Holy Spirit, the Comforter, is also called the Paraclete.
    - (a) This means one who is called alongside of us.
    - (b) We do not have to bear our burdens alone.
- c) Today's suffering is temporary.
  - i) For believers, all the suffering we will ever know is on this side of the grave.
- d) The glory that we have is eternal.
  - i) We are prepared for glory.
    - (1) Romans 8:16
    - (2) When pain and suffering come, let the Holy Spirit within you bear witness with your spirit that you belong to God.
  - ii) We are predestined for glory.
    - (1) Romans 8:28-30
    - (2) Paul speaks of us being in glory in the past tense.
      - (a) It is as good as done.
      - (b) What has been settled in Heaven can never be annulled in time or by Hell.
  - iii) We are preserved for glory.
    - (1) Romans 8:33-34
    - (2) We can never be separated from our Lord.
      - (a) No fault can condemn us.
      - (b) No foe can conquer us.
      - (c) No fear need control us.
    - (3) We have a loving Savior who is praying for us right now.
- e) Romans 8:38-39

## 5) CONCLUSION

- a) The apostle Paul knew suffering.
  - i) He knew what it was to be beaten.
  - ii) He knew what it was to be imprisoned.
  - iii) He knew what it was to need food, water and clothing.
- b) Romans 8:18
- c) We have a choice.
  - i) God has given us a choice just as He gave Adam a choice.
- d) Jesus Christ suffered, bled and died for you; and He has undone what the first Adam did in the Garden of Eden. There is no reason for you to miss Heaven and a relationship with a loving Savior.
- e) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.

- f) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
  - i) Romans 3:23
  - ii) Romans 10:9-10
  - iii) Romans 10:13
  - iv) Acts 16:31