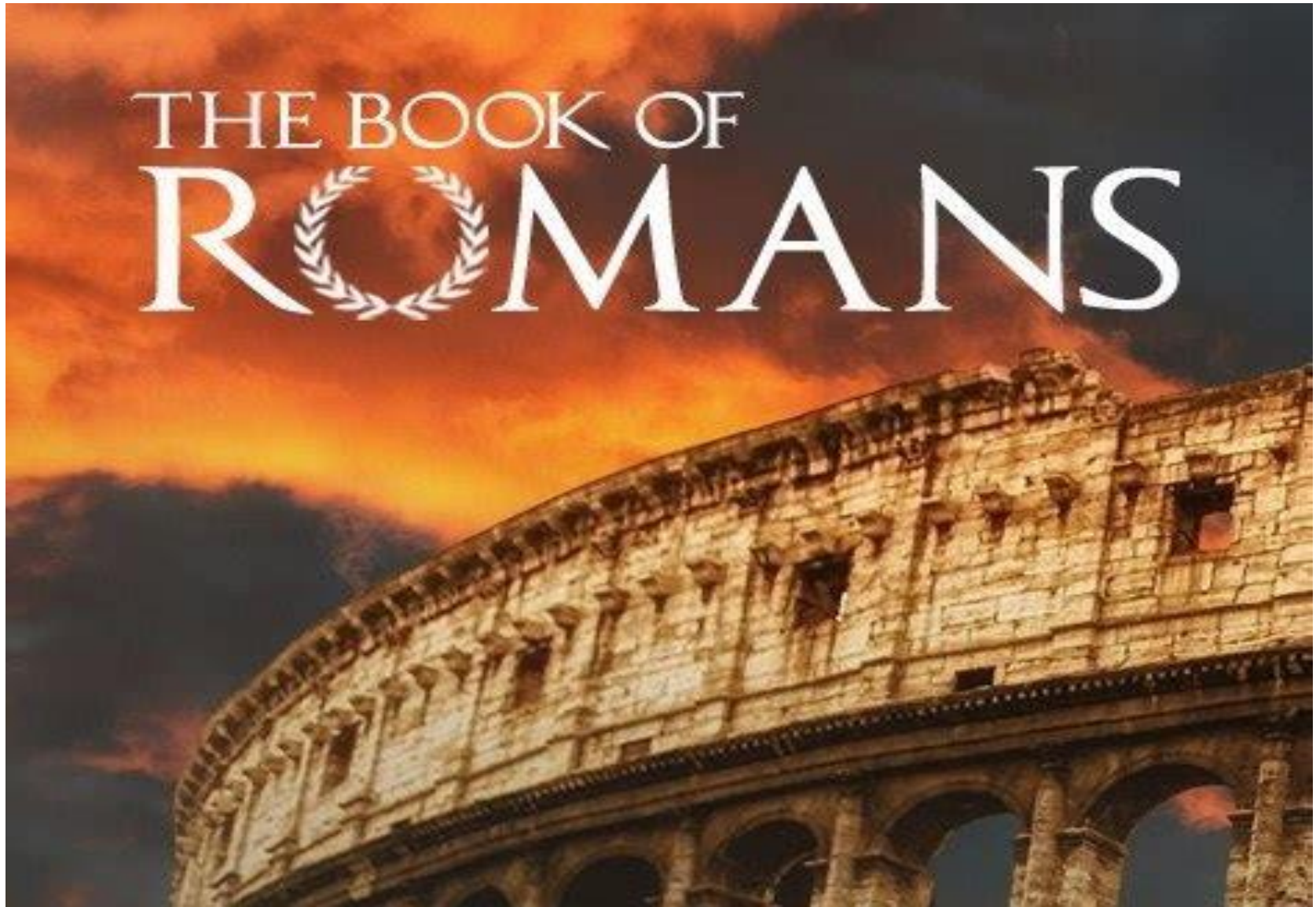


Rom 8:23-25 We Ourselves Groan Within Ourselves



The believer and creation 8:18-25*



The **future** state of the believer 8:18

- the glory that is to be revealed to us

The **present** condition of creation part 1 8:19

- creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God

The **past** judgment of creation 8:20

- creation was subjected to futility

The **future** restoration of creation 8:21

- creation itself also will be set free from its slavery [into glory]

The **present** condition of creation part 2 8:22

- creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth

The **present** condition of the believer 8:23

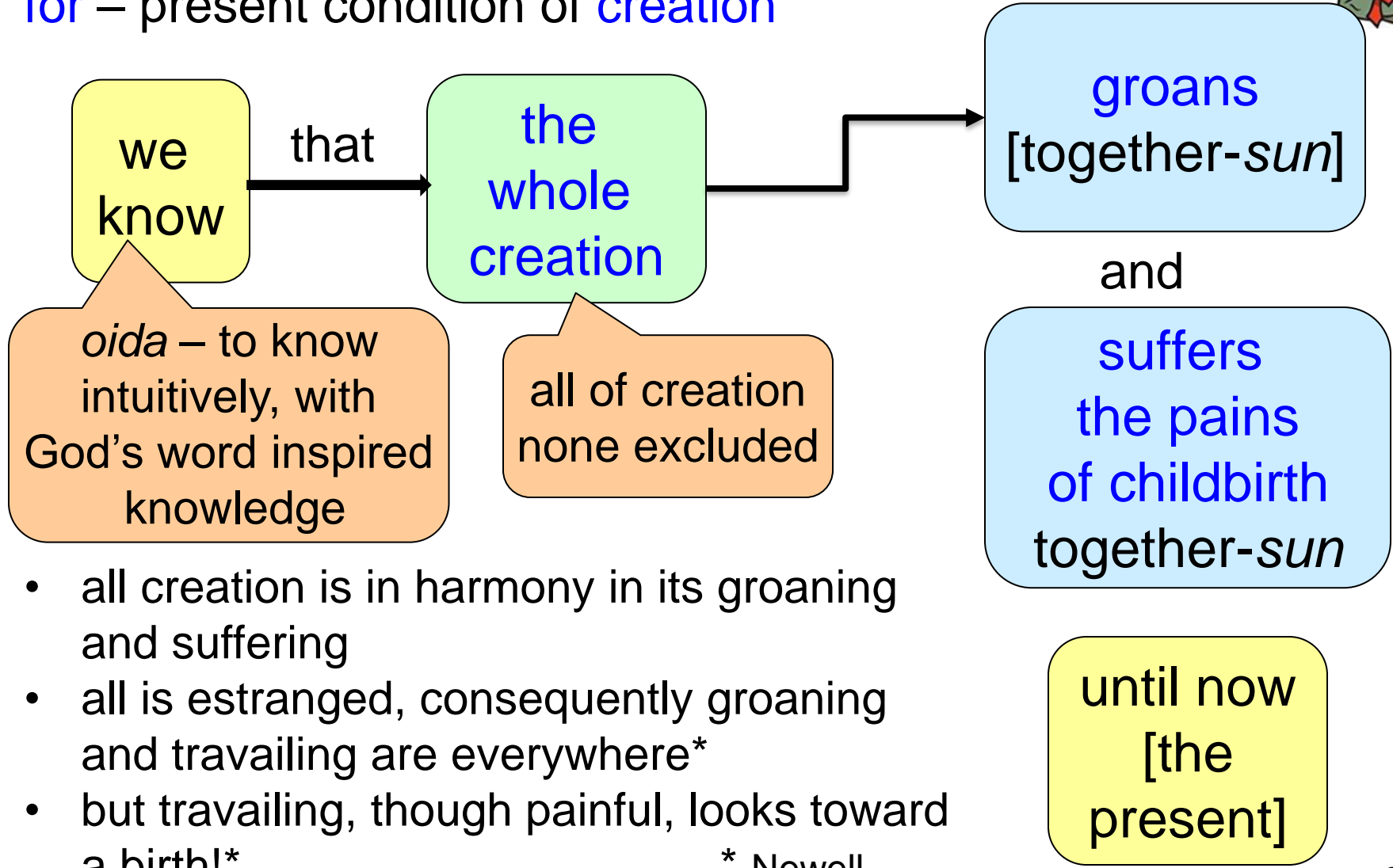
The **present** hope of the believer 8:24-25

* also call “The Believer’s Glorification” by McCalley 2



22 For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now

for – present condition of creation



- all creation is in harmony in its groaning and suffering
- all is estranged, consequently groaning and travailing are everywhere*
- but travailing, though painful, looks toward a birth!*

* Newell

Observation About the Groaning of Creation



- Joel 1:18 How the beasts **groan**! The herds of cattle wander aimlessly because there is no pasture for them; even the flocks of sheep suffer.
- Some have observed the following:•
 - Nature sings in a minor key
 - The wind blowing through the pine trees on a mountainside and the breaking of the surf – both emit the same sob.
 - The music of the trees has been recorded and it is doleful [mournful].
 - The startled cry of some frightened animal or bird pierces the night air and chills the blood.

* J V McGee

Today's Verses



23 And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even **we ourselves groan** within ourselves, waiting eagerly for *our* adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.

24 For in **hope** we have been saved, but **hope** that is seen is not **hope**; for who **hopes** for what he *already* sees?

25 But if we **hope** for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it.

²³ And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for *our* adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.



and not only *this*

- refers back to the groaning and suffering of creation in verse 22

but also - now we have a contrast between creation and the sons of God

we ourselves – *autos* - refers to no particular class within the Christian fellowship - it reaches to all Chafer

having - *echo* - to possess (present tense – cont. action)

- John 3:36a He who believes in the Son **has** [*echo*] eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life
- what follows refers to a possession of all believers

²³ And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for *our* adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.



the first fruits of the Spirit

- First fruits was a harvest feast celebrated by Israel
- Ex 23:16 you shall observe the Feast of the Harvest of the **first fruits** of your labors from what you sow in the field
- Ex 23:19 You shall bring the choice **first fruits** of your soil into the house of the LORD your God.
- As an earnest [the first fruits], a foretaste, of that which awaits the child of God in glory*
- The blessings which are now realized by the believer because of the presence of the Spirit in his heart constitutes what is called **first-fruits**. * Chafer

23 And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for *our* adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.



even we ourselves

- expressing a quality of all believers - Vine

groan - *stenazō* - to groan, sigh, of persons in distress, affliction - an inward, unexpressed feeling of sorrow

- 2 Cor 5:2 For indeed in this house we **groan**, longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven.

within ourselves

- Focus here is internal groaning vs the external of creation
- We groan for our glorified body Merryman
- We have the first fruit (the Holy Spirit) and long for the completion of our salvation.

²³ And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.



waiting eagerly – lit: eagerly expecting – is rendered "to wait for" in many verses

- an expression used for “the Christian's hope”*
- the Christian's hope includes the two elements, hope and patience (we will see this in Rom. 8:25)* *Zodhiates

adoption as sons - *huiiothesia* - from *huios*, “a son,” and *thesis*, “a placing,” - lit: a son placing

- so our groaning is described as “eagerly expecting sonship” or son placing
- This is the final phase of our salvation which is called glorification.
- Gal 5:5 For we through the Spirit, by faith, **are waiting for the hope of righteousness.**

²³ And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for *our* adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.



Paul will now give us further details on our sonship

the redemption of our body

redemption - *apolytrōsis* - a releasing on payment of a

ransom

Scriptural redemption also has three phases:

- deliverance from penalty of sin - Rom 3:24 being justified as a gift by His grace **through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus**;
- deliverance from power of sin (nature) - Eph 1:7 In Him we [continually] have **redemption** through His blood
- deliverance from presence of sin – this will happen with the redemption of our bodies – Rom 8:23

24 For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he *already* sees?



for in hope

- Wuest: in the sphere of hope

we have been saved - *sōzō* - of salvation granted by God to those who believe on the Lord Jesus

- aorist – this is an event in a believer’s life
- indicative – it is factually real
- passive – God has acted upon us when we believed
- 1 Thess 5:8 But since we are of the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and **as a helmet, the hope of salvation.**
- So our sphere of hope is pictured as a helmet which is called the hope of salvation
- The believer’s hope is an absolute certainty

24 For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he *already* sees?



More on the “hope of salvation:”

- this refers to “**waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons**” from verse 23
- this is the final phase of our salvation
- **waiting eagerly** is an expression of our hope
- hope always has to do with [the unseen] future Merryman
- Scripture tells us where hope fits in God’s plan
- 1 Cor 13:13 But now faith, **hope**, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love.

24 For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he *already* sees?



1st - but hope that is seen is not hope

- If we see the outcome then hope is not required
- But Scripture says “not seeing” is the key to understanding faith
- 1 Peter 1:8 and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory.
- Rom 10:17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

2nd - for who hopes for what he *already* sees?

- a repeat of the same idea for emphasis
- There would be no hope, if all were realized

25 But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it.



3rd - But if we hope for what we do not see,

If – assumed to be true

- It is God's plan that we exercise faith for what we cannot see
- Now hope is expecting something better! The very fact that we have not seen it realized as yet, begets within us that grace which is so precious to God—patience.*

with perseverance [lit: to abide under] we wait eagerly for it

- it is not patience in the abstract that is set forth here:*
- but **patient waiting** for the coming liberty of the glory of the children of God.*

* Newell

Final Thoughts



Next week we come to a new section* in Romans 8

- **verses 26-27** is the power of the Holy Spirit toward us*
- the focus is the Holy Spirit's ministry in our prayer life
- key ideas:
 - we do not know how to pray as we should
 - the Spirit also helps our weakness
 - the Spirit Himself intercedes for us
 - He [Holy Spirit] intercedes for the saints according to the will of God
- **verses 28-30** the sovereignty of the Father toward us*

* called **The Believer's Provision** by McCalley

He Hideth My Soul (292: 1,3,4)

A wonderful Savior is Jesus my Lord,
A wonderful Savior to me.

He hideth my soul in the cleft of the rock,
Where rivers of pleasure I see.

He hideth my soul in the cleft of the rock
That shadows a dry, thirsty land.

He hideth my life in the depths of His love,
And covers me there with His hand,
And covers me there with His hand.

He Hideth My Soul (292: 1,3,4)

With numberless blessings each moment
He crowns,
And filled with His fullness divine,
I sing in my rapture, oh glory to God,
For such a Redeemer as mine!

He hideth my soul in the cleft of the rock
That shadows a dry, thirsty land;
He hideth my life in the depths of His love
And covers me there with His hand,
And covers me there with His hand.