

The Main Point: We and our good earth have a wonderful future.

Overview

1-V18 The world is no longer paradise...but in the FUTURE it is going to be paradise again when Christ returns. People _____ in this world--- because sin always results in misery, pain, suffering and death. But we can take heart. The day is coming when we will get the _____ back. That day when God will reveal who his _____ really are.

2-V19-22 The creation – the natural world and its creatures - also suffer. We took our world down with us. It was subjected to _____ (nothing works out well and easy) with humanity. However, it will share with the born again humanity freedom from _____ and _____. The coming of Christ began the restoration. The creation now is _____ like it were in the pains of _____ for that day.

3-V23 The coming of the indwelling presence of the _____ is like the first days of spring. God's people have a _____ of FUTURE glory, and long for that day when we will be _____ from pain and suffering because we will have new _____ that are free from the curse of pain, suffering and dying.

4-V23 "And even we Christians, although (because) we have the Holy Spirit within us as a _____ of FUTURE glory, also groan to be released from pain and _____. We, too, wait anxiously for that day when God will give us our full rights as his _____, including the new _____ he has promised us."

5-V26-27 While we wait for that glorious FUTURE day, it is not easy to pray-- to feel like we are connecting with God. However, the Holy Spirit is with us to _____ us to pray. He knows what we need to pray and prays for us. God sees what is in our hearts and sees and hears the Holy Spirit there pleading for us in harmony with God's _____.

6-V28 "And we know that God causes _____ to work together for the _____ of those who _____ God and are called according to his purpose for them."

7-V29 There is a doctrine called PREDESTINATION. It means that each person's eternal destination was determined by God before they were born. This word says that: God _____ his people in _____. He chose them to become like his _____. He _____ them to come to him. And he gave them _____ standing with himself and promised them his _____.

8-V31 The GOOD NEWS we have for the world is that God is _____ every person. He loved us and saved us while we were still helpless sinners (Romans 5:6-8). So if God is for us, how can we ever think that life on this planet is _____ us. Verse 37 "No, despite all these things, _____ victory is our through Christ, who loved us."

9-V32-34 Rather than accusing, condemning and casting us into hell, the Father _____ Christ to be accused and condemned, to die, and to go to hell. Those who choose God are free. Who dares _____ us. God has chosen us for his _____. God has given us _____ standing with himself. Who will _____ us. Christ Jesus won't . He is not judge but judgment bearer. He has now become our defending attorney, the one who sits at God's right hand _____ for us.

10-V35-37 Christ now has all power in heaven and earth. His passion and affection for you and I has caused him to be the sacrifice that destroyed every single thing that blocked our

access to the Father. Nothing can ever _____ us from his love and his power to rescue us. We need to remind ourselves of this whenever the miseries of this fallen world happen to us. When we have _____ or calamity, or are persecuted, or _____, or destitute, or in _____ or threatened with _____.

11-V38 I am _____ that nothing in this creation can ever _____ us from the Father's love for us revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Word Study

• IN ADVANCE • PURPOSE • SUFFER • CREATION • HELPS

1.V18 _____ This world is no longer paradise—but it will be again some FUTURE day. God's laws reflecting who he is were built into this creation. Human kind, to a person, chooses to substitute their way. The result is that we and our whole world will experience suffering until the day Christ returns, when "God will remove all our sorrows, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. The old world and its evil are gone forever." Revelation 21:3-4

2.V19 _____ "EARTH IS OUR HOME." It was in the beginning and it will be so in the resurrection. We will have resurrection bodies to live in paradise restored. "ALL CREATION ANTICIPATES THE DAY WHEN IT WILL JOIN GOD'S CHILDREN IN GLOIRIOUS FREEDOM FROM DEATH AND DECAY." V21

• What would eternity be without this earth of forests, prairies, oceans and rivers—trees and grasses, flowers and the fragrance of them all – without the creatures of the air, water, and earth. All these things that are such a delight to us and the Lord God, who tells us he's going to be walking this earth with us in that glorious future. "I saw a new heaven and a new earth... I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, 'Look, God's home is now among His people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them.'" Revelation 21:1-3

3.V26 _____ The same word is used in Luke 10:40 where Martha asks Mary to help her cook a meal for their dear friend Jesus. The Holy Spirit helps us bare our hearts to the Father. Sometimes we are overwhelmed and confused -- such times as the death of a beloved one -- great pain -- abandoned by a spouse -- our child in great trouble - financial exhaustion. In those times we just don't know how to put what we are feeling inside into words. All we can do is groan, moan, sob, or cry out. In those times we can count on the Holy Spirit to be putting the words before the Father. Hebrews 5:7 • This may also be the use of the gift of speaking in tongues. Even if we may not be in anguish--even if we are full of words (perhaps full of ourselves) -- it is beneficial to pray in tongues so that the Holy Spirit can bring better prayers--the deep prayers we have--- that we may not be focusing on in that day.

4.V29 _____ FOREKNEW. This is called *predestination*. However, it does not say that God made us be saved or lost. It says HE KNEW IN ADVANCE (as God He knows all things) which persons down deep inside where they live actually had an open door in their heart for Him. •So all their lives, even in the kind of person they were born as, He is at work to make them like Jesus. One step at a time. One day at a time. As they say, "Yes Lord" to one thing or another.

5.V28 _____ We are glad to hear that everything works out together for good in our lives. However, the highest good Father God has in mind for us is the same good that good parents have, that their children may be good and godly people and GROW UP TO BE LIKE JESUS. That means that our heavenly Father will allow consequences of bad

behavior to linger in our life—where he may put us in difficult situations and people – where he will block ambitions and pleasures that our sin nature wants. He will let us cry and fear and suffer but he will never be separated from us. In the long run, the good things of earth will be ours as well. But again, he wants most of all for us to be people that have the character to be his friends.

What does this Scripture say to you?
