

SERMON APPLICATION QUESTIONS

June 23, 2019

Worth the Wait

Romans 8:18–25

1. Are you surprised to hear Paul say that your path to future glory leads (necessarily) through present suffering? Are you surprised that there's a wilderness between your justification (declared righteous) and glorification (made righteous)? If you are surprised, do your best to describe why.
2. Suffering through the wilderness of this life can tempt us to give up. What kind of suffering has had this effect on you? Is it your battle with sin? Sinners? The devil? The fallenness and brokenness of this world (including your body)?
3. Is it hard for you to hear what Paul says in verse 18? Hard to believe, perhaps, or insensitive? If it is hard, try to describe why?
4. When's the last time you were in awe of or felt wonder at creation? In other words, when's the last time you heard creation 'groan' to be free and fully glorious (verses 19–22)? Describe what you felt. How might that feeling stir your heart for and faith in future glory?
5. Name a recent time you experienced the goodness of victory over sin, of God's presence in your life, of real, deep fellowship with another believer. Name a time, in other words, when you tasted the 'firstfruits of the Spirit' (verse 23)? How do these experiences make you feel about the Christian life? Dissatisfied? Ready for heaven? How might the last word in verse 25 help shape your perspective?