

Solid Rock Christian Church Manassas, Virginia

Bible Study for November 12, 2020

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Title: "The Benefits Outweigh The Cost"

Scripture Reference: Romans 8:18

"For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us."

I. Introduction

A. Have you ever complained about the price you paid for something and after you purchased the item, you were not satisfied with the product?

B. Some stores or merchants sell items, and they claim or the manufacturer of the item makes a claim about the goodness of the item. However, after you leave the store, disappointment sets in. This is because the item or the product was not like the store or the merchant claimed it would be.

C. How about those package deals that different entities try to get you to purchase? One such package includes the **vacation of a lifetime with outstanding benefits.**

D. Here is the sales pitch - For just \$200.00 per month for 72 months, you can own a 2-bedroom, 1-bath luxury vacation villa that you can stay in one-time each year.

E. On top of that, you get to relax by the swimming pool, free dinner passes, and four, yes four (4) free space available coach seat airline tickets to your vacation destination.

F. **After** you have signed the contract (you were too excited to ask very many questions "before" you signed), you find out that \$200.00 per month for 72 months includes an enormous interest rate on the unpaid balance. When you find out the total cost, you are disgusted.

G. On top of that, you later find out that you won't be receiving the "**free airfare**" tickets, and your 2-bedroom place is never available when you want to use it.

H. There is a phrase that is often used when this happens - "**False Advertisement.**" When this happen, you may even say, the item was not worth the price.

Comment: I'm sorry to say this, but some people are guilty of "False Advertisement." They make you think that they are something that they really are not. Ok, that's enough of that.

I. On the other hand, when you consider the price that the Lord Jesus Christ paid for our sin debt, and for those who will accept what He has done, believe and put their trust in Him, the benefits are enormous. Additionally, the price that Christ paid, completely satisfied the righteous demands of our Holy and Righteous God.

J. For the believer in Christ, the future is very, very bright. However, while we continue to live on this earth, there will be some difficult days ahead. In fact, you many have already experienced some rough or difficult days. Second Timothy 3:12 says - "**Yea, and**

all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." Never-the-less, eternal glory awaits every believer. Therefore, **hold on, do not get discouraged!**

K. None of us really want to suffer in any way and that is our human nature. However, if you take a strong biblical stand for Christ, it is a guarantee that some kind of opposition, alienation, affliction, and/or rejection by the world will come your way. (Some of you many have already encountered this in the workplace.)

L. Unfortunately, those kind of things and criticism will sometimes come from those who profess to know God, but by their deeds, they deny Him. (Consider Titus 1:16 - **"They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate."**)

M. The word **reprobate** is the Greek word *adikimos* and it means *unapproved, rejected, worthless, castaway*. It also means *tested and found unfit*.

N. Let us now turn our attention to the target verse for this study session.

II. Exposition [Part I] (Romans 8:18)

"For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us."

A. The word **reckon** is the Greek word *logizomai* and it means **"to take an inventory; to estimate."** Figuratively, as it is used here, it refers to *reaching a settled conclusion by careful study and reasoning*.

B. Additionally, what *logizomai* means here and is being strongly affirmed is this - any suffering for Christ's sake is a small price to pay for the gracious benefits received because of that suffering.

C. The passage goes on to say - "**The sufferings of this present time ...**" The Greek work for suffering is *pathema* (pronounced - **path-ay-mah**) and it means *something undergone, hardship, pain, affliction*.

D. When you are trying to live right by honoring Christ in your life, it may sometimes cause you to suffer, undergo pain or hardship caused by others; simply because you are trying to do what is right in the sight of God.

E. Sometimes **pain**, **hardship** and **opposition** will be directed at you simply because people know that Christ is in your life and you seek to please Him. Consider the following passage in our Savior's own words: "**And a man's foes shall be they of his own household.**" (Matthew 10:36)

F. Romans 8:18 goes on to say - **the sufferings of this present time**, that is, our time on earth. Thank God - if you are in Christ, when you leave this earth, suffering will not be in your future!

G. Our sufferings of this present time **are not worthy to be compared ...**" You cannot draw a comparison between earthly sufferings for Christ with **what awaits you**.

H. The **benefits** of our sufferings for Christ here on earth are significantly and gloriously much more advantageous with what God has in store for us. **Thank You Lord!**

I. In the New Testament, the Greek word **pathema** is used to express both Christ's sufferings and that of believer's suffering for **His** sake.

J. Jesus Christ is the supreme and perfect example of suffering for righteousness' sake. However, just as suffering was essential to Christ's obedience to His Father, it is essential to our obedience to Christ.

K. Those who do not know Christ have no hope when they suffer.

Points:

- 1) Suffering for Christ's sake and righteousness' sake, will bring spiritual blessings your way and glory to God.
 - 2) Those who live only for this life cannot look forward to any resolution of wrongs or to any comfort for their souls. Their pain and afflictions serve no divine purpose and bring no divine reward.
- L. On the other hand, Christians have great hope.

III. Exposition [Part II]

A. The next part of the verse should cause you to break out in joyful praise - "to be compared **with the glory which shall be revealed in us.**"

B. The glory which shall be **revealed in us** far exceeds the hardships, headaches and pain we now endure, because Jesus Christ is in our lives.

C. As followers of Christ, our suffering comes from men, whereas our glory comes from God. Our suffering is earthly, whereas our glory is heavenly. Our suffering is **short**, whereas glory is **forever**. Consider 2 Corinthians 4:17 which says - **"For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory."**

Comment: This truth can help believers endure afflictions.

D. Our suffering is trivial, but our glory is limitless. Our suffering is in our mortal and corrupted bodies, but our glory will be in our perfected and imperishable bodies.

Hallelujah!!

E. The believer in Christ does not focus on today's sufferings; he or she looks forward to tomorrow's glory.

F. Some of the wonderful benefits that await the believer in Christ are stated in the **Book of Revelation, Chapter 21:4** - **"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain; for the former things are passed away."**

It is once again interactive time. Please complete the biblical passages that follow by filling in the blank spaces. As always, each passage was taken for the King James Version of the Holy Bible.

"My brethren, count it all _____ when ye fall into divers _____; Knowing this, that the _____ of your _____ worketh _____." [James 1:2-3]

"And who is he that will _____ you, if ye be _____ of that which is _____? But and if ye _____ for righteousness _____, happy are ye: and be not _____ of their terror, neither be _____;" [1 Peter 3:13-14]

"Beloved, think it not _____ concerning the _____ which is to try you, as though some _____ thing _____ unto you: But _____, inasmuch as ye are _____ of Christ's _____; that, when his _____ shall be _____, ye may be glad also with _____ joy." [1 Peter 4:12-13]

"These things I have _____ unto you, that in me ye might have _____. In the world ye shall have _____: but be of _____ cheer; I have _____ the world." [John 16:33]

"Blessed are they which are _____ for _____ sake: for theirs is the _____ of heaven." [Matthew 5:10]

Questions for Your Consideration

1. Have you ever been hurt emotionally when you tried to encourage someone because of your commitment to Christ?
 - a. If so, how did they make you feel and what if anything did you do afterwards?
2. Are you shy or hesitant about doing or saying something because other people may label you as trying to be "holier than thou"?
3. After considering this lesson and you now understand that the benefits of serving and honoring the Lord Jesus Christ outweigh any hardship you may have to endure, are you motivated to continue to honor and serve Him?
4. How might you encourage some other Christian who may be going through something, but they may not be as solid in their faith as you are?

Jude 3

Pastor Austin