

Fresh Fire Ministries
The Expository Teaching Ministry of Jay Duane Driver

“The Glory Revealed”

“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.” Romans 8:18 (NKJV)

There are so many things occurring in rapid fire succession in our nation and world. It seems as though every day without fail there is some issue, problem, debate, corruption, crime, war, unrest, and the like that permeates our airwaves in real time. We wonder what will happen next and how long will this level of suffering and affliction last. Let's be clear. This is much more than who sits in the Oval Office or what political party is in charge. Do not be deceived or distracted. Don't lose focus and don't lose heart. Many would believe that we are in the tribulation period prophesied by the Apostle John while exiled on the Isle of Patmos. That time is yet to come. **“And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.” Matthew 24:6 (NKJV)** As rough as it may seem right now and no matter what you may be facing in this life, since the church has yet to be raptured we are not in the Tribulation Period.

While our suffering to a certain degree is self-inflicted due to our own disobedience or adherence to our plans rather than God's we will suffer as a part of our journey to our heavenly home. **“If we suffer, we shall reign with him.” II Timothy 2:12a (NKJV)** Another aspect of suffering can be viewed from the writing of the Apostle Peter in **I Peter 4:15, “But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters.”** This suffering is one that is brought on by doing what is wrong and having to “suffer” through whatever the consequences of those actions might be. When one suffers in this way God is certainly not pleased and His name is definitely not glorified. When a person is incarcerated for breaking a civil law the suffering is considered to be self-inflicted and not something that God caused in order to receive glory.

The glory of God defined in our devotional passage is “the exalted state of blissful perfection which is the portion of those who dwell with God in heaven.” This glory will be revealed in us at the appearing of Jesus Christ our Lord. The interesting distinction is that while on earth God wants to receive glory “from us” as it relates to our behavior, good deeds, and the manner that we convey our Christian witness. **“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5:16 (NKJV)** In John Chapter 15 in Jesus' parable of the True Vine, Jesus speaks of this “glorifying” of the Father as synonymous with bearing “much fruit.” Furthermore in this context, it becomes a part of our discipleship responsibility and our stewardship to grow and mature in our relationship with God. We should all aspire to bring God glory from our life. Our desire to please Him in every way should never be circumvented by our own personal desires or by living our life opposed to what He has ordained.

While suffering on this side of heaven is unavoidable our consolation is that we compare it with the glory that will be revealed “in” us. There is no justifiable comparison because no matter what we may have to endure in this life it is not “worthy” to be compared to our future glory. Glory always outweighs suffering. It is the final stage of our salvation experience when we are delivered from the presence of sin once and for all. Our suffering is not deserving of such a powerful comparison. Think about the most difficult time in your life. Consider the deepest level of pain that you have ever felt. Just for a moment, reflect on the one time in your life that you thought it was over and all hope was lost. There is categorically, unequivocally, absolutely nothing that can ever merit a comparison to the glory that will be revealed in us when we get home.