Study Guide for May 27th, 2012. Present Suffering & Future Glory: Romans 8:18-25.

Introduction: "No Pain – No Gain!" When have you experienced the value of suffering or some form of pain producing something of great value in the future? Give an example.

I. The Comparison: (vs. 18)

A. Recall what Paul states will characterize God's children? (vs. 17) What is gained?

B. How does Paul describe the contrast between present suffering and future glory?

C. What complimentary truths about suffering and glory are made clear in. . .

1) II Cor. 4:16-18: 2) II Thess. 1:6-10:

3) I Pet. 5:10-11: 4) I John 3:1-3:

D. What is our human tendency when we encounter **our present sufferings**?

II. The Groaning of God's Creation: (vs. 19-22)

A. What is creation waiting for? What is creation's current status?

B. Who is responsible for the **frustration** that creation currently experiences?

C. What image describes creation's current experience? How else is that image used?

D. Give some examples of creation's bondage to decay.

E. What will creation's liberation look like? (Is. 65:17-25) What do you hope for?

III. The Groaning of God's Children: (vs. 23-25)

A. What are the **first fruits of the Spirit**? (See II Cor. 1:22, 5:5; Eph. 1:13-14)

B. Why, if Christians already have received the Spirit, do they now **groan inwardly**?

C. What is meant by **redemption of our bodies**? (See I Cor. 15:42-57, Philip. 3:20-21)

D. How would you describe the **hope** that Paul refers to in (vs. 24 & 25)?

E. Christians are to wait **eagerly** (vs. 23) as well as **patiently** (vs. 25) as we anticipate our adoption as sons and the redemption of our bodies. What help you do this?