

ESV Outline:

Romans 1:8–15	Paul's Longing to Visit Rome
Romans 1:16–15	The Righteous Shall Live by Faith
Romans 1:18–32	God's Wrath on Unrighteousness
Romans 2:1–11	God's Righteous Judgment
Romans 2:12–29	God's Judgment and the Law
Romans 3:1–8	God's Righteousness Upheld
Romans 3:9–20	No One Is Righteous
Romans 3:21–31	The Righteousness of God Through Faith
Romans 4:1–12	Abraham Justified by Faith
Romans 4:13–25	The Promise Realized Through Faith
Romans 5:1–11	Peace with God Through Faith
Romans 5:12–21	Death in Adam, Life in Christ
Romans 6:1–14	Dead to Sin, Alive to God
Romans 6:15–23	Slaves to Righteousness
Romans 7:1–6	Released from the Law
Romans 7:7–25	The Law and Sin
Romans 8:1–11	Life in the Spirit
Romans 8:12–17	Heirs with Christ
Romans 8:18–30	Future Glory (Today)
Romans 8:31–39	God's Everlasting Love (Next Week)
Romans 9:1–29	God's Sovereign Choice
Romans 9:30–10:4	Israel's Unbelief
Romans 10:5–21	The Message of Salvation to All
Romans 11:1–10	The Remnant of Israel
Romans 11:11–24	Gentiles Grafted In
Romans 11:25–36	The Mystery of Israel's Salvation
Romans 12:1–2	A Living Sacrifice
Romans 12:3–8	Gifts of Grace
Romans 12:9–21	Marks of the True Christian
Romans 13:1–7	Submission to the Authorities
Romans 13:8–14	Fulfilling the Law Through Love
Romans 14:1–12	Do Not Pass Judgment on One Another
Romans 14:13–23	Do Not Cause Another to Stumble
Romans 15:1–7	The Example of Christ
Romans 15:8–13	Christ the Hope of Jews and Gentiles
Romans 15:14–21	Paul the Minister to the Gentiles
Romans 15:22–33	Paul's Plan to Visit Rome
Romans 16:1–16	Personal Greetings
Romans 16:17–23	Final Instructions and Greetings
Romans 16:25–27	Doxology

On the Kangamangus River...

**The Warm Car is Worth the Cold Water
My Uncle Can Get Me through the Water**

Suffering as Christians is normal, necessary, temporary, worthwhile & doable.

Is Suffering Normal & Necessary? (16-17)

¹⁶ The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are **children of God**, ¹⁷ and *if children, then heirs*—heirs of God and *fellow heirs with Christ*, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be *glorified with him*.

1. Suffering for God's children is normal

Romans 5:1–5

5 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ² Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and *we rejoice in hope of the glory of God*. ³ Not only that, but *we rejoice in our sufferings*, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character **produces hope**, ⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, **because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit** who has been given to us.

2. Suffering is necessary
3. Suffering is temporary and worth it.

(v. 25) **If we hope** for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with **patience**.

Is Suffering Worth It? (18-25)

- I. Navigating Suffering with **Eyes Fixed on Glory**

¹⁸ For I consider that the *sufferings of this present time* are not worth comparing with *the glory that is to be revealed* to us.

- II. **Creation Groaning** in the Pains of Childbirth (with Hope)

¹⁹ For **the creation** waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰ For **the creation** was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that **the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption** and obtain *the freedom of the glory of the children*

of God. ²²For we know that **the whole creation** has been groaning together in the *pains of childbirth* until now.

- A. **Looking back:** Genesis 3 (Futility, Hope, Childbirth...)
- B. **Looking forward:** Freedom from Corruption?

III. **We Ourselves** Groan & Wait with Hope

²³And not only the creation, but **we ourselves**, who have *the firstfruits of the Spirit*, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, *the redemption of our bodies*. ²⁴For **in this hope we were saved**. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵**But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience** (steadfastness, endurance).

- A. Adoption: The Redemption of Our Bodies
- B. If we hope...Steadfast (4. The glory **is** worth the Suffering! v. 18)

How is our hope further strengthened?

Can We Make It? (26-30)

^{26a}**Likewise the Spirit helps us** ("bearing a burden along with") in our weakness.

I. God Helps Us Pray

For *we do not know what to pray for as we ought*, but **the Spirit himself intercedes for us** with groanings too deep for words.

²⁷And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of **the Spirit**, because **the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God**.

- 5. God does not remove our weakness or perplexity; He increases our confidence in Him!

II. God Will Finish **His** Work in **You**

²⁸And we know that for those who love God *all things work together for good*, **for those who are called according to his purpose**. ²⁹For those whom he *foreknew* he also *predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son*, in order that he might be *the firstborn among many brothers*. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also *called*, and those whom he called he also *justified*, and those whom he justified he also *glorified*.



- 6. We are being made like Jesus (Suffering & Glory) Cf. 1 Peter 4:12-19
And God is making it happen!

(v. 25) **If we hope** for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

1. Does today's passage correct any misunderstandings about suffering as Christians for you? Have you ever fallen prey to the temptation that if you were trusting God properly, your life would not be this hard?
2. How has your suffering been used to make you more like Jesus?
3. Is it a comfort to you to know that you are not the only person who often does not even know what you should pray for?
3. Is it comforting to know that the Holy Spirit is with you in your sufferings and praying for you according to God's will?
4. Surely there are times to pray for wisdom. But do you ever see the need to stop asking for understanding and to start trusting in God's competence and his power to accomplish his intended work in you? (Talk this over with someone)
5. To strengthen your hope this week, spend some time reflecting on the goodness of the world to come and the glory we will enjoy when God has finished making us just like our elder brother!