

Broken world. Bright hope!

The bright hope—new creation

Romans 8:18–27

Introduction

1. Creation's longing persuades Paul that future glory awaits (v19–22)

- the outstretched longing of creation v19
- the deliberate subjugation of creation v20
- the promised liberation of creation v21
- ante-natal groaning of creation v22

2. Christians' longing persuades Paul that future glory awaits (v23–25)

3. God's longing persuades Paul that future glory awaits (v26–27)

Conclusion

Questions for discussion and reflection:

- Why is it that creation 'groans'?
- Why does Paul find such comfort and encouragement from Christian suffering?
- How would this have encouraged the Roman readers of Paul's letter to be more bold in speaking of Jesus?

Next week: The bright hope—completion, Romans 8:26–30, William Taylor.