

## THE THREE "GROANS" OF ROMANS CHAPTER 8

### *Romans 8:19-27*

The Greek term "groan" refers to an inward feeling of sorrow which is expressed by an inaudible sigh. It suggests a dissatisfaction with the present state and a deep longing for better realities in the future.

Consider the three groans of Romans chapter 8:

**1) Creation Groans:** "For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now" (*Rom. 8:22*). Ever since Adam's fall, all of creation has been under the curse of man's sin. Creation is here personified. It is depicted as a mother going through the pains of childbirth. A mother in travail has great hope, knowing that there will be a birth and the pain will not continue forever. So likewise, the world of nature has the promise of freedom, even to share in "the glorious liberty of the children of God" (*Rom. 8:21*). This new existence will be fulfilled significantly in the millennial reign of Christ (*Isa. 11:1-9*), and totally fulfilled in the new heavens and new earth, when there will be no more curse (*Rev. 22:3*).

**2) The Christian Groans:** "And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption [*huiiothesia*], to wit, the redemption of our body" (*Rom. 8:23*). The present blessings of salvation are wonderful, but believers are not yet totally satisfied. We live in a sin-cursed world and we are still affected by a sinful, Adamic nature. Believers yearn and groan for better days. We are eagerly awaiting "the adoption" [*huiiothesia*], referring to when our sonship will be fully realized and our redemption will be complete. The indwelling Spirit is the guarantee that these future realities will be fulfilled.

**3) The Comforter Groans:** "Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself [Himself] maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered" (*Rom. 8:26*). The Spirit within us prays for us with inaudible groanings. He is not satisfied with our present state, and is working unceasingly to conform us to the image of God's Son. Even our sincere but feeble prayer requests must be translated by the Spirit and made acceptable to the Father. He groans and yearns that we might have God's highest and best!

~George Zeller: [www.middletonbiblechurch.org](http://www.middletonbiblechurch.org)

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