

THE STRUGGLE

OCTOBER 4, 2009

Pastor Jimmy Scroggins

Read Romans 8:17-22

1. Things are not how they are

_____ to be.

- the “curse” of sin is at the root of all human suffering
 - poverty
 - divorce
 - depression
 - disease
 - death
 - broken relationships
 - persecution for doing and believing the right thing

- the whole creation has been twisted because of the curse
 - Katrina
 - Tsunamis
 - Famine

ROMANS 6.7.8

2. Things are not how they are _____ to be.

Already.....but Not Yet

See the contrasts:

- v. 17 – suffering/glory
- v. 18 – suffering/glory
- v. 20 – current frustration
- v. 21 – future liberation; current decay

Illustration: “Birth Pains” – v. 22

See the expectations:

- v. 19 – creation waits eagerly
- v. 23 – believers wait eagerly
- v. 25 – believers wait with patience

Paul calls believers – “first fruits”(v. 23)

v. 24 – “in this hope we were saved.”

3. God is using my hurts to make me what He

_____ to be.

Read Romans 8:26-28

Suffering points believers to Jesus.

Suffering teaches me to rely on the Spirit.

Suffering points us to God’s goodness and authority

Illustration: Cancer / Chemotherapy



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