

will be completely made over and conform to the image of the Lord Jesus Christ. Surely that will be glory for me. And then he goes on in the chapter to look at - in verses 14 to 17 - the wonderful glory that we have in our relationship to God - that we are heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, that we have received the spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father, that we are made members of the family of God. How glorious! I'm sure that all of you who were here last year remember that wonderful message on the Day of Prayer which Mr. Bennet gave. He told of the partnership of the Christian with God in which he thought of ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ the things that are taking place in the universe and thought of the fact that ~~XXXXX~~ he is a partner with God in this accomplishment and each one of us has that. If we believe in Christ we are joint heirs with ~~XXX~~ Christ. We are truly children of God. We are associated with Him in the control of the universe and eventually will reign with Him over this earth. And then in verses 18 to 23 he shows that element of glory which is future but which means much to us. We will be glorified in future days by eventual complete freedom from the evils of this life. "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." And here he speaks of physical distress. He speaks of the misery associated with our bodies. He speaks of the problems which we have in laying out the work which we want to do and then finding our bodies aren't able to accomplish it. He speaks of the misery which we have in setting forth to accomplish things and then some physical ailment interferes or some accident or something that cuts down our physical strength and makes it impossible for us to go forward. And he says this condition will not always be. He says, "For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body." The whole creation is to be free from the sufferings of this present life and all those who believe in Christ will share in this glory. How wonderful this promise of eventual complete freedom from the weakness of our present bodies, of the glorification body, the resurrection body that Christ is going to give to each one of us. But then after he stresses this in verses 18 to 23 you can almost hear somebody making one of those groans that he just spoke of - "we ourselves groan within ourselves" - somebody groans and says, "Yes, but I don't see it. That's wonderful that that's going to come but still we have the sufferings of this world. They're not worthy