

From Above
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[Rom 8:18 NASB95] 18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

- **God did not intend for us to suffer. The Garden of Eden was paradise. We often do not handle suffering properly. We must continually learn how to handle it.**
- **Paul provided a way of looking at suffering from above. He presented a heavenly or eternal viewpoint.**
- **Text:**
 - **Suffering is expected.**
 - **Suffering is limited.**
 - **Reward is coming and significantly bigger than suffering.**

How does looking at life from above change help us deal with suffering?

There are three ways seeing life from above helps us today.

I. Seeing life from above gives us proper perspective.

- a. We can choose to realize that though suffering is expected it is light and momentary.
- b. [2Co 4:16-18 NASB95] 16 Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. 17 For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, 18 while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

II. Seeing life from above gives us endurance.

- a. God wants us to develop endurance. That is achieved by endured pain by viewing the end of the suffering and the victory that God was bringing to Him.
- b. [Heb 12:2 NASB95] 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

III. Seeing life from above gives us hope.

- a. There is always a Bible HOPE (expectation) that we won't be here for too much longer.
- b. [1Th 4:13-17 NASB95] 13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. 15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of [the] archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.

- **Seeing life from above helps us to see clearly while here below. It changes our perspective, gives us endurance, and strengthens our hope.**