

TWISTED

Pt. 3 – Facing Forward

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When we experience pain or loss, our first question is usually “Why?” “Why me?” “Why now?” We want to make sense of what’s happening and understand the purpose for our pain. We want assurance it’s not random and we haven’t been abandoned.

Another natural reaction might be “What did I do?” or “Is this my fault?”

For believers, the answer may not be emotionally satisfying, but God gives us three things to consider in Romans 8:18-32 (NIV).

- A. **IN THE BEGINNING:** (Vs 20-22) Creation was subject to frustration. When sin entered the world, God judged the world, and death followed. Since that time everything is in bondage to decay. No one is exempt.
- B. **IN THE MEANTIME:** (Vs 23-29) We have hope of the future redemption of our body, but in the meantime God’s Spirit knows our weaknesses and is interceding on our behalf. We live in a judged, decaying world. When the pain is so great you can only groan and cry, God’s Spirit is praying and interceding for you. God is saying, *“I am with you, I am in control, I care and I will give you strength to endure.”*
- C. **IN THE END:** (Vs 30-31) We have the hope that one day all things will be made right. Don’t live in the “meantime” and get caught up in the circumstances and lose your perspective. The purpose of our pain and suffering is not found in the past or the present, but in the future.