

# Study in Romans

Doctrine > Good News > Temporal Blessings > From Groaning to Glory  
Romans 8:18-27

Having explained justification to us in chapters 3-5, Paul has been disclosing the temporal blessings God gives to those He is saving through a process we call “sanctification.” The following table, borrowed from John Stevenson<sup>1</sup>, summarizes the contrast of these two ingredients in God’s program of salvation, justification and sanctification.

<b>Justification</b>	<b>Sanctification</b>
Justification is a once and for all event.	Sanctification is an ongoing process.
Justification is something that God does on your behalf - God does it FOR you	Sanctification is a work that God does IN you
Justification declares you to be righteous on the basis of the righteousness of Christ which is credited to you	Sanctification begins to develop a character of righteousness in your life

In this next section, Paul reveals that this state of sanctification contains a good bit of suffering in the form of struggle with the flesh. This produces the exasperation in his own life that we saw in 7:14-25 and is the same exasperation experienced by all believers as we await the completion of God’s program of salvation, the glorified bodies He has promised (cf. 8:30). We do not suffer alone, however, and Paul here will reveal two other groups who groan with us as we collectively wait for the completion of God’s salvation.

1. Groaning to glory (v. 18)
2. Group 1 - Creation (vv. 19-22)
3. Group 2 - Christians (vv. 23-25)
4. Group 3 - God the Holy Spirit (vv. 26-27)

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<sup>1</sup>Dr. Stevenson serves as a teaching pastor at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Hollywood, FL. His notes on Romans are found at <http://www.angelfire.com/nt/theology/romans.html>