

Introduction

- the view from Romans 8
- life's mixture – pleasure & pain, satisfaction and disappointment, joy & sorrow
- all sadness reflects the absence of permanence ...

The groaning of creation (18-27)

- we were made for permanence (Eden ... New Jerusalem)
- the reality of hardships (35, 36)
- a whole new world is waiting (21)

Behold, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind (Isaiah 65:17)

- present sufferings don't bear comparison (18)
- a sharing in the suffering of Jesus (17)

No condemnation (1)

- Who can stand before the Judge of the Earth?
- Romans decimates any argument that we can earn righteousness (3:10, 23)
- 'But now a righteousness from God ... through faith in Jesus Christ' (3:21, 22)

More than conquerors (37)

- 'through him who loved us'
- 'in all things ...' (28)
- nothing can separate us from the love of God that is in Jesus (39)

A long obedience in the same direction (12)

- only possible by the Holy Spirit (4-17)

Tips for the journey

from a talk to those preparing for ordination given by Michael Ramsey, the 100th Archbishop of Canterbury (1961 – 1974), quoted in John Stott's final book, The Radical Disciple, p. 108

- thank God, often and always
- take care about the confession of your sins
- be ready to accept humiliations
- do not worry about status
- use your sense of humour