

In our reading from Romans today, St. Paul talks about the incomplete nature of creation. That all of creation is waiting for redemption, waiting for God to redeem it, for God to reform it and save it.

“ For creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for all creation was subjected to futility, not of its own but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.”

Now for St. Paul this knowledge is a word of hope as the reading begins, “I consider the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us.” (repeat)

It is this hope that allows St. Paul to find meaning in his suffering, to go beyond the trials and tribulations that he must endure.

Our Gospel for this Sunday gives us the beautiful parable of the sower that goes out to sow. The parable describes the different types of soil that can receive God’s word. Shallow soil, soil overcome with weeds, the hard rocks and of course the good soil where the word of God takes root and grows, multiplies and provides for a rich harvest.

Now at the same time the parable is about a farmer who is not careful with the seed that he scatters. God is liberal with his word and he is not careful and he casts it in places where he knows it will not take root, where it will produce a harvest, where it will not be received.

As we journey through these days of the pandemic the decay of this world, as described by St. Paul, has become rather self-evident. We have the disease itself and all of the nasty repercussions that flow from

it. We see how easily the structures, the soil on which we build our lives can just fall apart.

But do we have hope? Do we have the faith of St. Paul which can see beyond the futility of creation to see a greater glory?

God as he sows the crop of his Word scatters the seed liberally and abundantly. And that word should be for us a word of hope, a hope that is able to go beyond this present suffering as it awaits the glory of the children of God to be revealed.

The parable of today's Gospel poses that question. What kind of soil am I? And what can I do to cultivate that soil so that it will become good soil, soil that is open to God's word of hope?

St. Paul tells us today that the world is weighed down, the world is groaning, the world is enslaved to decay. But for St. Paul this is not the final word, for we await the glory of the freedom of the children of God. Let Jesus sow the seeds of hope today so that with St. Paul we will understand, truly understand that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us, the freedom of the glory of the children of God.