**Believer’s Fellowship – May 2, 2021**

**Romans 8: 18**

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time

are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. (ESV)

**Pathēma: (sufferings)**

1. that which one suffers or has suffered
   1. externally, a suffering, misfortune, calamity, evil, affliction
      1. of the sufferings of Christ
      2. also the afflictions which Christians must undergo in behalf of the same cause which Christ patiently endured
   2. of an inward state, an affliction, passion
2. an enduring, undergoing, suffering

**Doxa: (glory)**

splendour, brightness

1. of the moon, sun, stars
2. magnificence, excellence, preeminence, dignity, grace
3. majesty
   1. a thing belonging to God
      1. the kingly majesty which belongs to him as supreme ruler, majesty in the sense of the absolute perfection of the deity
   2. a thing belonging to Christ
      1. the kingly majesty of the Messiah
      2. the absolutely perfect inward or personal excellency of Christ; the majesty

**Childbearing as an Example:**

When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. (John 16: 21)

**Hebrews 12: 1 – 2**

1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, **who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross,** despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

**Delayed Gratification**:

Describes the process that the subject undergoes when the subject resists the temptation of an immediate reward in preference for a later reward. Generally, delayed gratification is associated with resisting a smaller but more immediate reward in order to receive a larger or more enduring reward later. (Wikipedia)

**Beyond Delayed Gratification:**

The future glory we anticipate is amazing! The sufferings in this world are significant. But we endure the sufferings, and in their midst, we experience the deep intimacy with the Father. That deep intimacy is wonderful, but even that is only a foretaste of the intimacy we will experience with him in glory. So we are not just delaying our gratification, but we anticipate something that is even more gratifying. Something we did not think was possible.

**Questions to Ponder:**

* How are you viewing your current “sufferings”? How are you viewing God in the midst of your current “sufferings”?
* What is your current understanding of the “glory” that is to come? Does understanding impact your daily living in any way, shape, or form?