

## Introduction

- Borders road from Edinburgh to Newcastle - all hills, up and down!
  - *image one*
  - can't see far ahead, occasional glimpses, then down into the next dip
  - *image two*
  - don't think there is one on that road, but come to a glorious viewpoint where the whole landscape is laid out before you...
  - that is the kind of mental image Paul has - what we have to go through now isn't worth comparing with what wonders and glories lies ahead

## Our Present Sufferings

### A groaning world (18-21)

- We do live in a groaning world
  - a groaning world that is not meant to be this way
  - and that eagerly awaits its future glory

### Now, but not yet (22-25)

- Christ has won, but the final victory has not been declared
  - the child is conceived, but has not been born
  - now, but not yet
- We are now..... but there is more to come!

### Help in weakness (26-27)

- In that waiting, God helps us
  - particularly through the gift of his Spirit
  - who intercedes for us...
  - and so we intercede "in accordance with God's will!"

## Present Certainties

- How do we hang in there in a groaning world, when we live with the frustration of that which is not yet...?

### Predestined (for our confidence) (28-30)

- We hang in there partly in the knowledge that God has had his hand upon us from before the world began!
  - one of those passages people get their knickers in a twist over!
  - take away free will?

### God is for us (31-34)

- (*Giving Jesus is proof!*)

### God will not judge nor separate us from himself (35-39)

- We are secure!

## Conclusion

- Rejoice!
  - *what does it mean to be "more than a conqueror"?*