



-- **Big Idea:** The pains and problems we suffer are birth pains of new and everlasting life.

- As God proclaims the curses of sin, He reveals the overarching spiritual purposes and patterns that will dominate life in this fallen world.
- A significant aspect of human experience in this fallen world is reflected in the pain that women now experience when giving birth.

1.) Childbirth brings _____.

- Because of sin in the world, the great joy of childbirth would only come on the other side of great discomfort.
- The result of her Eve's sin would be much greater pain in childbirth than she had experienced before.

2.) Childbirth demands _____.

- Perhaps the greatest pregnancy-related anguish is the emotional and sociological pain of waiting for pregnancy to come.
- The agony of barrenness is pervasive among some of the most significant births recorded in the Bible (Genesis 29:3).
- In Ancient Near Eastern culture, barrenness was generally viewed as punishment from God and a cause for reproach (Gen. 20:23, 30:1; Luke 1:25).
- God used the problem of barrenness to emphasize our calling to trust *not* in our timing, expectations, or circumstances, but in Him and His promises.
- The waiting may be long and laborious, but the reward from the Lord will be rich and resplendent for all who wait upon Him

3.) The troubles of this life are birth pains of _____.

- The pains childbirth brings are a constant reminder that, because sin is in the world, new life won't come without difficulty (Gen. 3:15, Rev. 12:2).
- God's people are and have always been like an expectant mother, awaiting the promised Child, who is the Messiah (Jeremiah 4:31, John 16:21-22).
- The pregnant woman in the agony of birth pains in Revelation 2 represents all God's people yearning to welcome the promised Savior to earth.
- In the OT, God's people were longing for the promised Messiah to be born. Now, in the Church Age, we are eagerly awaiting His glorious return.
- The curse of pain in childbirth refers not only to physical children, but also to sinners born again in Christ into the family of God (John 3:3),
- Salvation is the act of being born again in Christ, and like physical birth, this new spiritual birth comes through anguish and pain (Galatians 4:19).

4.) Spiritual rebirth comes only through the pain of the _____.

- With every groan and discomfort of every birthing woman, we reminded of the pain Christ paid so that we might be born again (1 Peter 2:24).

5.) Every pain is a cry for _____ in Christ (Rom. 8:18-25).

- Neither the sufferings of this life nor childbirth are permanent, and on the other side is the miracle of new life (2 Corinthians 4:17).
- v. 19 – Creation is waiting to see the full number of souls who will be born again through faith in Christ...
- v. 20-22 – All creation has been subjected to the consequences of sin to the extent that it is groaning in pain.
- Like every iota of true and lasting liberation, the liberation of creation comes through the promised Offspring of Eve, Jesus Christ.
- v. 23-25 – Like a birthing woman, the painful contractions of this world will not cease until the promise of new life finally arrives at our Lord's return.
- At Christmas, like an ecstatic new mother, we joyfully celebrate the first stage of this new birth.
- The birth pains we experience on this Earth in these Last Days are no longer birth pains of the Baby Jesus, for He is already come.
- The groanings of all creation in these Last Days are labor pains of a cosmos that is waiting for all God's children to be born again in Christ.
- Most of all, the troubles and turmoil of this life are birth pains of our Lord's triumphant return (Philippians 3:20-21, Revelation 22:20).