

Romans 8 (Part 2) :18-28 • The Sufferings of This Present Time

Note: This study from Romans 8 is all about HOPE. But not hope as it is defined by the world. It is about putting our hope in something BEYOND this life. In this passage the Apostle Paul shows that the world in which we live has been literally given over to futility and corruption. Therefore, life on planet earth can be expected to be HARD. And it is. So where is our hope? Is it in this life?

The Apostle Paul and the other New Testament writers expressed a hope BEYOND this life and they referred to it as our “hope of glory.” To believe that something beyond this life is worth living for gives the believer a sense of purpose and direction so that we can endure this life by keeping our eyes on Jesus. So during your study keep your focus on placing your HOPE in the promises of God for the next life.

Read Romans 8:18-28

Questions about our Passage:

Pastor Paul started the teaching by re-reading two verses from the previous study. They were **verses 16 and 17**. Re-read them now.

- Have you considered before the idea that suffering is a CONDITION for the future glory we will share with Christ?

Listen to this quote from David Guzik on this subject:

“...our sharing in suffering is a condition of our future glorification. As far as God is concerned, it is all part of the same package of sonship, no matter how much our flesh may want to have the inheritance and the glory without the suffering.”

- How did Paul compare our earthly sufferings alongside the promise of our heavenly inheritance?
- Why do you think Paul was so confident that our inheritance would surpass this life’s troubles and sufferings?
- It seems when we read Paul’s writings that he leaned pretty heavily on the idea of our future state of glory with Christ. Why do you think believers today place less of an emphasis on this?

As you think about “creation groaning” because of futility and corruption...

- How do those ideas affect the way you see life on this earth?
- How does it affect the way you pray?

Pastor Paul spoke about unbelievers living in a world that is given over to futility. They have NO HOPE because they don’t have Christ and His promises.

- How do you define “hope”?
- How do you think the world defines hope?
- Why do you think even Christians struggle with feelings of hopelessness from time to time?

Digging Deeper:

- Read **1 Corinthians 15:19** - What did Paul mean by this statement?
- Read **1 Peter 3:15** - How would you describe the hope that you have to an unbeliever?
- Read **1 Thessalonians 1:3** - What does Paul mean when he speaks of “**endurance inspired by hope**” (NIV) or “steadfastness of hope” (ESV) ?

Applying the Passage:

- On a scale of 1 -10 how would you rate your hope in the Lord?
- What kinds of things can believers do to increase their hope in things to come?
- Read Colossians 3:1-4 and pray together according to the exhortation of this passage.

Meditate on Colossians 3:1-4 this week.