

My Jesus #5 – My Jesus – A Savior For Suffering Saints **Romans 8:18-27**

We continue our series, My Jesus.

In Ch. 7 Paul cried out, ***“O wretched man that I am... Who shall deliver me?”***

- It was not the cry of a lost man
- It was a candid moment of honesty in the struggle of a child of God.

God met Paul in that moment, and led him to discover, and then share, life changing answers. They are preserved for us in Romans 8.

We as Paul know the answer is Jesus...

But - knowing the answer and then living the answer are not always the same.

Today, we learn living hand in hand with Jesus in the midst of struggles.

Paul - ***“I reckon that the sufferings of this present time...”*** vs. 9.

Jesus – ***“In the world you shall have tribulation...”***

From the moment we take our first breath, we are part of a broken world and engaged in the struggles it brings.

Some are suffering loudly. Others silently.

Some physically. Some mentally. Some relationally.

Some are spiritually exhausted.

But **nobody escapes living in a groaning world.**

So, what do we do with the struggles of life?

I. Our Hardships.

A. The reality:

1. Our struggles

- Vs. 18- ***“the sufferings of this present world”***
- **Vs. 20 – CREATION!!!**
“subject to vanity” –Enslavement to emptiness, vanity, false promises and inevitable disappointment
- Vs. 21 – ***“bondage of corruption”***
- Vs. 22 – All creation - ***“groaneth and travaileth in pain”***
- Vs. 23 – ***“we ourselves groan within ourselves”***

Types of struggles:

Ephesians 6- "We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against..."

- People
- Problems & perpleities
- Perspective: the Lens through which we view- everything!

2. Our infirmities (weakness, inabilities)

Vs. 26 – "our infirmities... groanings which cannot be uttered"

"infirmities" – Weaknesses... Our shortcomings, inadequacies

"groanings" – Deep inner moans; Pain beyond words

Reality check – all ages:

Will I struggle? Be disappointed? Is life sometimes tough? Will I hurt?

Yep!

B. "I reckon"

"Reckon": Greek – "logizomai" –

To calculate - whether by calculation or imputation; then,

To deliberate, and so to suppose, "account,"

Huh?

"Pain is a terrible calculator. If suffering does all the counting, hope always comes up bankrupt."

God through Paul directs us to...

- Look **beyond the pain**. Don't evaluate everything through the lens of pain!
- Look at the **facts rather than beings swept by feelings** (pain).
Feelings are real, but they are not always reliable narrators. God teaches us to anchor ourselves in truth while our emotions catch their breath.

- **Live in the conclusion, not the confusion. Live in Hope.**

C. Realization: What are we to "see" – *past the struggles, beyond the pain?*

- Vs. 18 – **This present time is passing**, the future is one breath closer!

- Vs. 18 – **Glory awaits beyond the groaning!**

- **Creation...**
- **Believers...**
- **Even the Holy Spirit**

Groan - But all for something beyond!

In fact, *the groaning and pain of today may be part of the process of changing us... making us more glorious!*

D. The Reach/Magnitude:

All of us. All of creation.

God not only gives us answers to help us understand; He has provided us solutions in Jesus! Answering Paul's cry- "***Who shall deliver me?***", **God meets Paul in the difficulty and leads Him to discover deliverance in Jesus.** We move from our hardships to

II. Our Hope – **My Jesus.**

A. Hope declared.

Vs. 20- "subjected the same in hope" (as opposed to subject to vanity")

Vs. 24- "we are saved by hope..."

B. Hope described.

One of the great problems of pain and difficulty is getting stuck in it and forgetting we will get through it!

1. Vs. 18 – **Beyond the moment is more - a future of glory!**

2. Vs. 19-21 – "***We wait for...***" Anticipation! Expectation!

Instead of wallowing, we wait.

3. Vs. 23 – "***groan... waiting...***"

Like a woman in travail...

"For the redemption of our body" –

One day, what He started when we trusted Him He will complete as we become just like Him forever!

4. Vs.24-25: A simple explanation and reminder:

Hope exists until it is fulfilled. When hope is fulfilled and experienced, faith becomes sight and hope becomes reality!

By its very nature, hope moves us from the moment, right now, to the future- One Day Soon. Guaranteed in Jesus! Maybe today.

It is incredible what people can endure as long as they have hope!

Hope does not depend on what we see or feel. It rests entirely on Who we know and What He's done! The future is guaranteed and on the way because of Jesus!

III. Our Help

The discussion of suffering and hardship continues. But, revelation turns from

- the hope we have beyond whatever we face
- to
- the immediate answer we have right now.

A. Vs. 26-27 – “Likewise the Spirit...”

God, in each session, has taught us that His Spirit, Christ in us, is the answer we need. My Jesus, in us, working.

- The Spirit of Jesus is within each of those who know Jesus. 8:9
- The Spirit of God
 - not only enables us to rise above our flesh and really live,
 - not only leads and reminds us that we are God's kids,
 - but “helps our infirmities”.

B. “Infirmities”

“want of strength, weakness, infirmity;”
“feebleness (of mind or body)”

C. “Helpeth” – to come beside and share the load, assist.

In those moments when we are weak, feeble, not enough -
The Spirit of God – the “Comforter” comes beside and does what we can't.

In context, as it relates to suffering and groaning - **When we don't even have the words and know what to pray, we can rest in**

1. His presence. *The pain may be present, but so is Jesus!*

2. His intercession – *Translates to the heart of God the depths of our heart!*

3. His intimacy – *Searches our minds and hearts and intercedes on our behalf!*

There are moments when prayer becomes sighing.

Moments when theology collapses into tears.

And the Spirit of God says, 'I can work with that!'

Hopefully today, you are carefree and enjoying the best of life in Jesus!

The truth – for most if not all, we struggle.

Suffering is a part of life. We are never told to enjoy it, but we are encouraged to endure it. Even engage it! How?

1. Know Jesus. He is our answer! He is our peace in the midst of the storms.

2. Ask God for the ability to

- ***“reckon”*** – Looking beyond the moment, beyond the struggle and pain, and keeping our sites on His truths rather than our temporary struggles.

And

- ***“hope”*** – Live breath by breath, day by day, in anticipation of the difficulty passing and another glorious day finally dawning. It will. Maybe today!

3. Lean upon His presence...

Trust. Listen. Pour what you can out and trust that He knows all, cares infinitely, and will see us through.

My Jesus can help us pray while bleeding, worship while waiting, and believe though broken.