

LifeGroup Questions

Based On: Romans 8:18-25

December 2, 2018

Overview

How do you measure hope in your life? Christmas is the time of love, joy, hope, and cheer and yet so many of us can go through this whole season only feeling despair. In today's passage the Apostle Paul is going back and forth between hope and suffering. Is it possible to have hope in the midst of hardship? The answer to this question is dependent upon what you put your hope in.

Society has a broad scope of use for the word hope. We hope our favorite football team wins. We hope the pizza has our favorite toppings. We hope for good weather. While these might be good things to hope for, this level of hope will not get you through hard times. Before the birth of Jesus the entire nation of Israel was hoping for a deliverer. They hoped the future Messiah would throw off Roman rule. They were being oppressed by the Romans. They had to pay taxes to the Romans which only went to pay for their own oppression. Their hope was for temporary relief not an eternal glory.

Romans 8:22 states that all of creation is groaning. The suffering during the first century included being martyred for having faith in Jesus. Between the suffering and groaning it seems like a really bleak place to have hope. Yet, Paul states the suffering does not even compare to the future glory. The Roman oppression did not even compare to the hope Jesus brought.

So how do you measure hope? Often times we measure hope by whatever the circumstances are in our life. When times are good we have a high level of hope in Jesus. When times are bad our hope begins to waiver. This makes our hope more circumstantial than eternal. We will go through groaning before glory. Jesus' birth in a manger didn't match Israel's expectation for a King. For those who put their hope in Jesus, it went beyond the temporary relief of Roman oppression. During this Christmas season put your hope in Jesus even if He doesn't meet your current circumstances or expectations. As we see in the book of Romans there is groaning before glory.

Bible Study: Romans 8:18-25

1. How does your current circumstances affect your level of hope?
2. Read Romans 8:18. Give an example of when this verse has been true in your life.
3. How do you maintain hope in a weary world?
4. Read Isaiah 40:29-31. In what ways does putting your hope and trust in God give you strength?

5. Make a plan this next week to encourage each other in your LG. Either through text messages or phone calls. Remind each other of the hope Jesus brings.