

# ROMANS

KNOW THE TRUTH

June 23, 2024

## ROMANS

KNOW THE TRUTH

TITLE: In Christ: I Have Hope

SCRIPTURE: Romans 8:18-26

### ROMANS 8:18-26 NLT

18 Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later. 19 For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are. 20 Against its will, all creation was subjected to God's curse. But with eager hope, 21 the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay. 22 For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. 23 And we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering. We, too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as his adopted children,<sup>[j]</sup> including the new bodies he has promised us. 24 We were given this hope when we were saved. (If we already have something, we don't need to hope<sup>[k]</sup> for it. 25 But if we look forward to something we don't yet have, we must wait patiently and confidently.) 26 And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words.

### INTRODUCTION:

In a world full of brokenness, we often find ourselves grappling with suffering and seeking a source of hope that transcends our circumstances. The apostle Paul, in Romans 8:18-26, provides us with insight into this quest for hope. He teaches us that in Christ, we have a hope that is steadfast and secure, even in the darkest of times. In

Christ, we have hope that endures through suffering, anchored in the promise of future glory, and sustained by the intercession of the Holy Spirit.

## I HAVE HOPE AS I DEVELOP A CHRIST-CENTERED UNDERSTANDING OF SUFFERING

- The Reality of Suffering: It's a common experience for all.
- Jesus' Approach to Suffering: Offers comfort and hope rather than exhaustive explanations.

### JOHN 16:33 NLT

"I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world."

## THE THREE KEY WORDS IN ROMANS 8:18-26

- **Hope:**
  - Mentioned 6 times.
  - Verses 20 and 24-25 emphasize hope in future redemption.
- **Wait:**
  - Mentioned 3 times.
  - Verses 18, 23, 25 stress waiting with expectation and patience.
- **Groan:**
  - Mentioned 3 times.
  - Verses 22, 23, 26 describe the groaning of creation, believers, and the Spirit.

## SOURCES OF SUFFERING IN OUR WORLD

### **Sin:**

- Personal and inherited sin

### ROMANS 5:12 NLT

"When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned."

### ROMANS 6:23 NLT

"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord."

### **Self:**

- Consequences of personal actions

### GALATIANS 6:7 NLT

“Don’t be misled—you cannot mock the justice of God. You will always harvest what you plant.”

#### **Satan:**

- Spiritual warfare and opposition

### 1 PETER 5:8 NLT

“Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.”

#### **Salvation:**

- Suffering for Christ’s sake

### 1 PETER 4:12-19 NLT

“Dear friends, don’t be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you. Instead, be very glad—for these trials make you partners with Christ in his suffering, so that you will have the wonderful joy of seeing his glory when it is revealed to all the world. If you are insulted because you bear the name of Christ, you will be blessed, for the glorious Spirit of God rests upon you. If you suffer, however, it must not be for murder, stealing, making trouble, or prying into other people’s affairs. But it is no shame to suffer for being a Christian. Praise God for the privilege of being called by his name! For the time has come for judgment, and it must begin with God’s household. And if judgment begins with us, what terrible fate awaits those who have never obeyed God’s Good News? And also, ‘If the righteous are barely saved, what will happen to godless sinners?’ So if you are suffering in a manner that pleases God, keep on doing what is right, and trust your lives to the God who created you, for he will never fail you.”

### IN CHRIST, I FIND HOPE IN SUFFERING:

By Remembering that it’s Temporary.

- Suffering is momentary compared to eternity (Romans 8:18).

By Looking Forward to His Return:

- Hope in Christ’s second coming (Romans 8:20-21).

By Contemplating a Perfect Future:

- Eternal perspective and the promise of a perfect future (Romans 8:22-23).

Through the Interceding of the Holy Spirit:

- The Spirit intercedes for us in our weakness (Romans 8:26).

# **My Hope is in Christ Alone! He Helps Me Develop an Eternal Perspective as I Find Strength in His Presence and Promises.**

## **LIFE APPLICATION DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

### **1. DEVELOPING A CHRIST-CENTERED UNDERSTANDING OF SUFFERING**

- Question: Reflect on John 16:33 and Romans 8:18. How does understanding Jesus' approach to suffering—offering comfort and hope rather than exhaustive explanations—change your perspective on your personal trials?
- Follow-up: Can you share a time when focusing on Christ's victory over the world provided you peace during a difficult season? How did this influence your faith journey?

### **2. EXPLORING KEY WORDS IN ROMANS 8:18-26**

- Question: Romans 8:20, 24-25 emphasize hope in future redemption, while verses 18, 23, and 25 stress waiting with expectation and patience. How do you reconcile the tension between hope and waiting in your own life?
- Follow-up: How does the concept of “groaning” as described in verses 22, 23, and 26 resonate with your experiences of longing for God's intervention? Can you identify moments where you felt the Holy Spirit interceding for you in your weakness?

### **3. UNDERSTANDING SOURCES OF SUFFERING**

- Question: Considering the four sources of suffering outlined (sin, self, Satan, and salvation), which source do you find most challenging to address in your life, and why?
- Follow-up: How can recognizing the origin of your suffering help you better respond to it with a Christ-centered perspective? Can you provide an example where understanding the source of suffering led to a positive spiritual outcome?

### **4. FINDING HOPE IN THE TEMPORARY NATURE OF SUFFERING**

- Question: Romans 8:18 suggests that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed. How does this perspective help you cope with current challenges?
- Follow-up: In what ways can you cultivate a mindset that continually remembers the temporary nature of suffering and the eternal glory that awaits? How does this influence your daily decisions and interactions?

## 5. EMBRACING THE PROMISE OF CHRIST'S RETURN AND THE HOLY SPIRIT'S HELP

- Question: Romans 8:20-23 and 8:26 highlight the hope in Christ's second coming and the interceding role of the Holy Spirit. How do these promises impact your sense of hope and perseverance?
- Follow-up: Share a moment when you felt the Holy Spirit's intercession during a time of weakness. How did this experience strengthen your hope and trust in God's promises? How can you encourage others to rely on the Holy Spirit in their times of need?