

NO CONDEMNATION.

# VIII

NO SEPARATION.

## **The Spirit and our Groaning**– Romans 8:18-25

June 16, 2024

Until the day Christ's people behold his face, we groan under the weight of this broken world. But 'as we groan, we're not alone', the Spirit has come to pour hope into our hearts and pray for us in our weakness.

Lewis Roderick continues our series through Romans 8 and tells us of the joy ahead and our present, prayerful companion.

For personal reflection/community discussion

**Read** – Read the passage in its context several times. Read it slow enough to understand what God is saying through it.

- What ideas or words are emphasised, repeated or related in this passage?
- In your own words, what is the main idea of this passage? (Try to summarise these verses in 10 words or less)

**Examine** – Next, try to understand the specifics of what the passage is communicating.

- What do you notice about God? What has he done/is he doing in these verses?
- What do you learn about Jesus and his gospel from this passage?
- What does it reveal about people?
- How do you think the writer wanted his reader to respond to these words?

**Apply** - After seeking to understand God's Word in this passage, consider how he intends to use it in your heart and life today.

- "The deepest, clearest joy we've known in the Spirit so far, is *nothing* compared to what's ahead!" - remember and tell of a time of joy in the Lord.
- As Lewis spoke of losing sight of the coming kingdom, did any of those tells (cynicism / fear / being jaded and disappointed) resonate with you? From the text, why is it easy to lose sight of eternal life, and practically, what can one do about it?
- Do you find prayer easy or difficult? Why might this be the case? What is the best advice you've received?
- How does the knowledge that the Spirit intercedes for us inspire us to pray? What difference might this make practically?
- Pray! Don't think too deeply on it before starting, simply begin pouring out your heart and trust the Spirit to do what he promises.