

NO CONDEMNATION.

VIII

NO SEPARATION.

Heirs with Christ– Romans 8:16-22

June 2, 2024

Is Christ worth the pain?

Maybe it's not a question you've asked yet, but if you're a Christian, at some point you will. We live in a creation ruined by the fall, and so hurt is inevitable. So why would we add to these inescapable sufferings the pains that accompany following Christ? Is he worth it?

As the Apostle Paul pivots toward application, he answers these questions head on. Listen in as Lewis Roderick takes us to verses 16-22 and shows us the glorious inheritance that awaits the children of God.

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.

- Lewis spoke of suffering being an inevitability. *How does this make you feel?*
- Consider the big picture of Romans 8 and how Paul is seeking throughout the chapter to bring assurance to the Romans. How do these verses do this? (Try to imagine how the Romans would respond to suffering if these words weren't in the Bible)
- Some people (wrongly) see the created world as unimportant (this is called asceticism). Others believe the material world is all there is - living for physical pleasures and beauty (this is called materialism). How does a Romans 8 vision differ from both? *How might this play out practically in your life?*
- Spend a moment in quiet reflection on one day 'seeing God's face'. *What thoughts (even fears) rise within?* Share these with those you're with (or with God in prayer) and allow his Spirit to minister the gospel of grace to you (cf. 2 Cor 4: 17; Rev 21: 3, 4; 1 Thess. 4: 16-18).