

HOPE In Waiting

- Opening Announcement
- Opening Prayer

Q: What's HARD/Bad about "waiting"?

Q: What's GOOD about waiting?

Q: How is waiting related to faith?

Q: How have you seen God use waiting in your life for HIS purpose, blessing and good?

Table Time...

READ: Romans 8:18-25 "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. ²³ And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience."

Q: According to verse 18, what is happening in Paul's life?

Q: How is suffering helpful/useful to God's purposes for our life?

Q: According to verse 19, what is "creation" waiting for?

Q: According to verse 20, WHY was the "fall" of mankind into sin and the judgement pronounced, so devastating on "creation"?

Q: According to verse 21, what is "creation" "hoping" for?

Q: What's the connection between the redemption of mankind and the redemption of creation? (Hint: Revelation 21:1)

Q: How do we see creation "groaning"?

Q: According to verse 23, also "groan"! How do we see that manifest in our life?

Q: According to verse 24, what's the "hope" in which "we are saved"?

Q: According to that verse, what's the "nature" of hope?

Q: How does "hope" and "waiting" relate?

BIG Group Debrief....

READ: Psalm 27:13-14 "I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living! ¹⁴ **Wait for the Lord**; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!"

Q: What is the "faith" expressed" in verse 13?

Q: What is the admonishment in verse 14?

Q: What's the relationship between verses 13 & 14?

READ: Psalm 130:1-8 "Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord! ² O Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy! ³ If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? ⁴ But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared. ⁵ **I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope**; ⁶ my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning. ⁷ O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and **with him is plentiful redemption**. ⁸ And he will redeem Israel from all his iniquities."

Q: What's going on in verses 1-3?

Q: What's the statement of faith in verse 4?

Q: What's the admonishment of verse 5? Why is THAT important?

Q: According to verse 7, what does this tell us about God?

Q: Why is THAT "hopeFULL"?

READ: Isaiah 30:18 "Therefore **the Lord waits to be gracious to you**, and therefore he exalts himself to show mercy to you. For the Lord is a God of justice; blessed are all those who wait for him"

Q: What's interesting about THIS verse?

Q: How might this reality change your impatience, or doubts when things go "bad" or are "challenging"?

READ: Isaiah 40:31 "but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint."

Q: What's the promise for those who "wait"?

Q: How is this hopeful?

Q: So WHAT does waiting and hoping look like? How is it done?

Q: How might the Mission Pillars of The Word, Prayer, Worship, Witness and Service tie into "waiting/hoping" in the Lord?

Application:

Q: In the challenges of your life, how might learning to "wait" on the Lord help?

Q: What's one thing you might do differently to help you wait and hope in the Lord?

