

ROMANS 8:18-25

FROM GROANING TO GLORY

Big Idea: Because believers are united with Christ, our present sufferings are temporary, our future glory is certain, and our hope is anchored in what God has promised.

OUR PRESENT SUFFERING IS REAL – BUT NOT ULTIMATE *(Read Romans 8:18)*

- Look back at v. 17. How and why does Paul connect suffering with sonship, and how does verse 18 reshape how we measure suffering? (e.g. 2 Corinthians 4:16-18)
- How does union with Christ help us understand why suffering is part of the Christian life, but also why our suffering does not have the ultimate say on our lives? (e.g. Philippians 1:29; 1 Peter 4:12-13)

ALL CREATION IS GROANING FOR REDEMPTION – AND SO DO WE *(Read Romans 8:19-23)*

- What does Paul mean when he says creation was subjected to futility “in hope (e.g. Genesis 3:14-21)?”
- How does the concept of “firstfruits” deepen our understanding of salvation as an already, but not yet reality? (e.g. Colossians 3:1-4; James 1:17-18)

OUR HOPE IS CERTAIN – EVEN WHEN IT IS UNSEEN *(Read Romans 8:24-25)*

- Why does Paul say, “hope that is seen is not hope,” and how does that clarify the nature of Christian hope? (e.g. 2 Corinthians 5:7; Hebrews 11:1; Titus 2:13)
- What does it mean to wait with patience, and why are unseen promises of God sometimes hard to trust? (e.g. Psalm 27:13-14; Isaiah 40:28-31; James 5:7-11)

Closing thought for discussion: The Christian life is lived between the groan and the glory. We suffer, we wait, we groan, but we do so as joint-heirs with Jesus, having our eyes fixed on a future that God has already secured.