

GOD IS FOR US

Ryland Walter | July 2-3, 2022

Week 4: Our Incredible Future

Three Realities of Life

I. You Will Suffer

Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. ¹⁸ I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.

Romans 8:17-18 (NIV)

You can handle ANY problem when you remember...

1. Who to share your problems with:

When you suffer,
you share in the _____.

2. What to compare your problems to:

When you suffer, your present sufferings are
_____ to your future glory.

For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.

2 Corinthians 4:17 (NIV)

[The Apostle Paul's Suffering: 2 Corinthians 11:24-27]

II. You Will Groan

For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. ²³ Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

²⁶ In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. ²⁷ And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God. Romans 8:19-27 (NIV)

1. _____ groans

Started as good → Became fallen →
Waits while groaning → Will become glorious

2. _____ groan

3. _____ groans

III. You Will Grow

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. ³⁰ And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

Romans 8:28-30 (NIV)

What good can problems work?

They make you like _____!

Three Realities of Our Future

1. Groans will turn to _____

2. Frustration will turn to _____

3. Decay will turn to _____

If you read history you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were precisely those who thought most of the next. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this one. — C.S. Lewis

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Romans 8:17-18 (NIV)

You can handle ANY problem when you remember...

1. Who to share your problems with:

When you suffer,
you share in the sufferings of Christ.

2. What to compare your problems to:

When you suffer, your present sufferings are
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For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.

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1. All creation groans

Started as good → Became fallen →
Waits while groaning → Will become glorious

2. We groan

3. The Spirit groans

III. You Will Grow

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. ³⁰ And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

Romans 8:28-30 (NIV)

What good can problems work?

They make you like Christ!

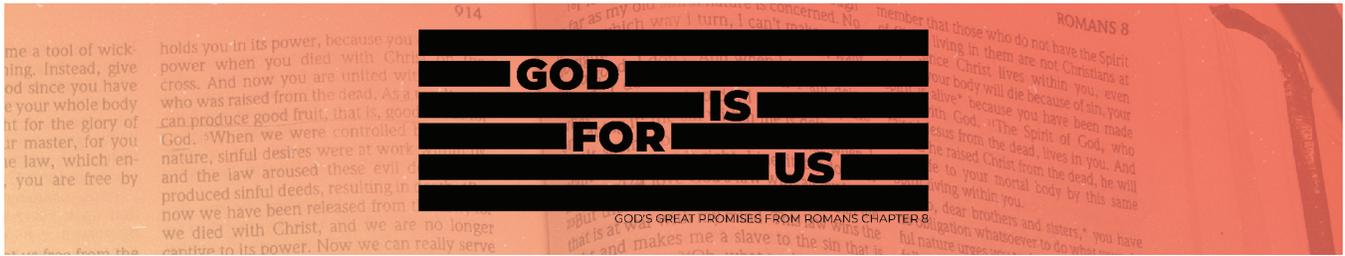
Three Realities of Our Future

1. Groans will turn to Glory

2. Frustration will turn to Freedom

3. Decay will turn to Deliverance

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OUR INCREDIBLE FUTURE

Talk-it-Over Notes | July 2-3, 2022

REVIEW IT

There is a price for being identified with Jesus. Along with being “heirs of God’s glory”, Paul also mentions the suffering that Christians must face. But you can handle any suffering when you remember that you share in the sufferings of Christ and that your present sufferings are not worth comparing to your future glory. All of creation is groaning for the future glory we are promised. In the mean time, God will use our sufferings to grow us. God will turn groans to glory, frustration to freedom, and decay to deliverance.

Spend some time in the word... **Read Romans 8:17-30 and 2 Corinthians 4:16-18**

TALK ABOUT IT

- Verses 17-18: What does it mean to you to “share in the sufferings” of Jesus? What do the words “weight of glory” picture for you?
- Verses 19-37: Is there anything that you are having to wait for right now? How does the truth of God’s hope help you as you wait? How could your group pray for you as you wait?
- Verses 28-30: How have you seen God working “all things together for good” in your life?

ACT ON IT

Take some time to read some verses about hope this week, asking God to give you new strength as you wait. Try finding them in an online concordance, and then share with each other some of the verses you’ve found at the beginning of your next meeting.

PRAY ABOUT IT

Take some time as a group to talk about your specific prayer requests and to pray for one another, especially asking that God will give you hope as you wait.