



ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Baptism** – The Bible teaches that baptism is an act of obedience after making a commitment to Christ. Baptism allows a believer to declare to the world their heart-felt commitment to Christ. Join us for this month's Baptism Sunday, December 3rd at 3 pm, as we celebrate the proclamation of faith of our brothers and sisters in Christ. If you want to be baptized, please sign up on the app, or call the office and someone can answer your questions.
- **Operation Christmas Child** – Boxes available in the Kids area starting on Nov. 5 or fill your own shoebox. Filled boxes returned no later than Sunday, Nov. 19! Suggestions: toys, socks, toiletries, hard candy. Pick up brochure with box to pay online and track your box.
- **EA Family Toy Drive** – EA Family Services is a non-profit foster family agency that services over 200 children in foster care throughout the Central Valley. Please bring new, unwrapped toys/items to the barrel in the Administration/Kids' building to be distributed to the children. Please call the office with questions.

MY STORY

How does following your feelings cloud your response to God's future glory and who we are as children of God?

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

Have a Volunteer Read: Romans 8:18-19

Point #1: Rethink how we see OUR PRESENT SUFFERINGS.

"Fear of the future leads to all kinds of anxiety and despair. When fear of the future invades our hearts in the present, it steals our joy and kidnaps our faith and hope. If we let it, it can distance us from God. We can grow more in love with the present world, and end up thinking

this is all there is. But the opposite is also true, as Paul shows us today... that when our vision of God's future for His children is clear, it helps fear to evaporate and hope to prevail. And that hope-filled future with God goes on to overflow into our lives in love and risk and joy. Future glory leads to different lives now.” – **Michael Nolen**

How does future glory put our present sufferings in perspective?

“We see this through the Bible. 1 Peter 5:1 says, ‘In Jesus we are partakers in the glory that is going to be revealed’. 1 Peter 5:10 says, ‘God has called Jesus' people to his eternal glory in Christ.’ Colossians 1:27 says, ‘Christ in you, the hope of glory.’ Colossians 3:4 says, ‘That when Jesus appears, we also will appear with him in glory.’ Future glory will make even the most tragic of sufferings here appear small, inconsequential. It’s like annoying inconveniences, like stepping on a wet spot on the floor when you're wearing socks. They're not even worth comparing.

– **Michael Nolen**

How can we trust in this future glory while in the midst of daily challenges?

Have Another Volunteer Read: Romans 8:20; Genesis 3:17

Point #2: Rethink how we see GOD’S CREATED UNIVERSE.

“Paul is saying there's coming a day when God's children will be revealed... in all their glory. He's saying, “Creation can't wait. No more wheelchairs, no more painkillers, no more glasses or contacts. No more vaccines or chemotherapy. No more deformity, disability or death. No more tears, trial or trouble. No more sinful desires or lies of the enemy. Only a new, glorious, redeemed body capable of seeing and hearing and touching and tasting and smelling... with new, infinite capacities to enjoy God forever. Paul's point is that all creation is eagerly awaiting the day when the children of God will appear in all their glory. Think about that.”

– **Michael Nolen**

In what ways does this passage change how you see creation?

“Creation is under a divine curse, and no one escapes from this, not even God's precious and dearly loved children. We too must suffer with Jesus through it, as we follow a Savior, who suffered and conquered it. Not only has God brought creation under a curse, but we also see God’s curse has a purpose. He did this *in hope*. This means futility is not the end. Corruption does not have the last word. Hope does. Futility has a hopeful purpose in God’s purposes.”

– **Michael Nolen**

Discuss why it is better to be less worried about sin in the world and more encouraged about hope for the future?

Have Another Volunteer Read: Romans 8:22-25

Point #3: Rethink how we see OUR PRESENT WAITING.

”So fix your eyes on that future glory. Make it a practice, a habit, a discipline, to fix your eyes on the eternal weight of glory that is to come. It protects us from sin. It comforts us in affliction. It puts our lives in proper perspective. And it frees us from being too anchored and entangled in this life. And it unites Jesus' people now, because we have an incomparable, shared future together, which helps to minimize all the differences and divisions that we might find bubbling up among us.” – **Michael Nolen**

What is the role of patience in the life of a follower of Jesus?

“Creation is groaning as it waits for its final glorious liberation. But these groans are not the groans of death. They are groans of labor. This groaning tells us, not that death is coming, but new life is on its way. So for now, we live in an already, but not yet.” – **Michael Nolen**

“We groan that we experience misunderstanding and division and betray. We groan as we watch the news, and see the violence and anger and injustice and false ideas being spread. We groan because this world is under siege and we long for Jesus to return and set all things right. We groan to be set free from futility. But these groans aren't groans of despair. They're groans of orphans, whose adoption has been secured, but who long for that great adoption day. They're groans of longing as we wait eagerly for our inheritance, for glory.” – **Michael Nolen**

How does this passage temper our expectations for what life can offer?

APPLICATION

Discuss with someone this week how we can focus on God's promised future glory for us versus being misdirected by our own feelings?

PRAISES

PRAYER REQUESTS