

HOPE IN SUFFERING

ROMANS 8:18-25

6/15/25

I. TENSION OF SUFFERING AND GLORY

Romans 8:18 - "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us."

A. Suffering is a fact of life

2 Corinthians 4:17 - "For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison."

2 Corinthians 11:24-28 - "Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. ²⁵ Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea; ²⁶ on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers; ²⁷ in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. ²⁸ And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches."

B. Paul builds an "A Fortiori" argument (from lesser to greater)

II. HOPEFUL SUFFERING IN CREATION – LESSER

A. Creation and humanity are connected in their fate

Romans 8:19 - "For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God."

B. Creation's suffering

Romans 8:20 - "For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope..."

1. "Not willingly" – Product of man's sin

Genesis 3:17-18 - "And to Adam he said, 'Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; ¹⁸ thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field.'"

2. "In Hope"

"Only God, being both Judge and Savior, entertained hope for the world He cursed." – John Stott

C. Creations Hope

Romans 8:21-22 - "...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."

1. To be made new with the children of God

2. Suffering is like "pains of childbirth"

III. HOPEFUL SUFFERING IN US – GREATER

A. Christians are not immune to suffering = “groaning”

Romans 8:23 - “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.”

B. What is our Hope?

1. Our Hope is to be saved from the suffering of sin

Romans 8:24a - “For in this hope we were saved...”

2. Our Hope is not seen

Romans 8:24b - “Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees?”

3. Our Hope requires patience

Romans 8:25 - “But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.”

IV. HOW DO WE PATIENTLY LIVE IN SUFFERING?

A. Learn from creation

1. “Eagerly long” for your hope
2. See the suffering as “pains of childbirth”

COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What did you think about the message this week? What stood out to you or challenged your thinking?
2. How does a passage like this one impact how we see the world around us and suffering?
3. Can you think of a time when you were able to have hope in the midst of suffering? Share with the group.
4. What are some things that help you to have the perspective of hope when you are in the midst of suffering? What are things that hinder you from having this perspective?
5. How can a Community Group at MCC be a beacon of hope to people who are suffering? If it has been that for you...share that with the group!
6. What is one thing from the group or message this week that you want to live out? How can the group help you in that?