



ROMANS

The Gospel of God

The Gospel of Hope!

Romans 8:18-27

Message #17 of 33 – S1145

Sermon given on March 30, 2025



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

The Gospel of Hope!

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Opening Comments

- Open your Bibles to **Romans 8**
- Today, we continue the series through the letter to the Romans – **The Gospel of God!**
- Let's open this time in our service with a word of prayer. - **Pray**

Teaching

- **The Gospel of Hope!**
- Chapter eight began with the liberty from the law and the flesh we experience through the working of the Holy Spirit.
- The rest of the section we looked at last time told us what the Holy Spirit gives us as He is liberating us.
- That took us to the amazing exclamation that we can call Almighty God our Abba Father.
- Paul then focused on the fact that life is not always easy.
- Sometimes it is hard, really hard.

- **Romans 8:18**

- It is a remarkable thing for Paul to say that the suffering we experience in this life doesn't compare to the glory that will be revealed in us.
- It is hard to imagine anyone in the first century experiencing more suffering than Paul did.
- Paul is pointing to a hope every Christ-follower should cling to and rejoice in, especially in times of suffering (**Colossians 3:4**).

When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

- As Christ-followers, through faith in Christ, we are promised eternal life in heaven.
- The glory of heaven is so great that all human language is inadequate to give a comparison.
- A moment of glory in heaven is exceedingly greater than a lifetime of suffering in this life. **R. Kent Hughes**

"We can compare a thimble of water with the sea, but we cannot compare our sufferings with the coming glory."

- Our ability to persevere in the face of suffering is dependent upon our faith that God is working for our glory in the trial (**2 Corinthians 4:17-18**).

¹⁷ For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory, ¹⁸ while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen *are* temporary, but the things which are not seen *are* eternal.

- It is during trials, tribulations, and suffering that our faith is tested and purified.
- Paul then goes on to describe the groaning response to this majestic hope.
- **Romans 8:19-22**
- The creation is the universe, all created things.
- This symbolism is meant to emphasize the importance of what Paul is saying.
- Turn to **Genesis 3**. When God created the universe, it was good.
- The universe and everything in it existed on purpose and with a purpose.
- It was good and was immensely productive. But then came the Fall.
- **Genesis 3:17-19**
- The world is now bound in corruption.
- Turn back to **Romans 8**
- That is why there are ‘natural disasters’, famines, pestilence, storms, floods, earthquakes, and volcanoes.
- The animal kingdom was in harmony with humanity but now has been cursed with fear and aggression.
- Death and disease are also byproducts of the Fall.
- That is all a product of the curse of corruption that is on the creation.
- Mankind’s abuse of creation makes things worse.
- If God didn’t have a different plan for the end of this world, I am certain mankind would eventually destroy itself and all life on this planet.
- Being a student of God’s Word I could never be convinced that climate change was going to end all life on the planet.

- The Bible teaches clearly how this world will end, and it won't be because of a hole in the ozone layer or global warming or nuclear war or any other way mankind might negatively influence creation.
- That doesn't mean we shouldn't do our human best to be good stewards of God's creation, but freaking out over climate change is silly and pointless.
- After Christ returns to establish His kingdom, He will remake the creation and restore it to what it was like before, uncorrupted.
- Even the nature of animals will be changed (**Isaiah 65:25**).

The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox, and dust shall be the serpent's food. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain," says the LORD.

- I am sure that most of you won't relate to this, but I have noticed the older I get, the more frequently I make involuntary sounds when I move certain ways.
- Creation is like an old man or like a woman who is close to giving birth, groaning and hoping to be delivered from the suffering into the glorious liberty of the children of God.
- Paul then turns his attention to the church.
- **Romans 8:23-25**
- Not only does creation groan, but we, as Christ-followers, who have the firstfruits of the Holy Spirit, groan for the last aspects of our salvation.
- As Christ-followers, we have been adopted into the family of God through faith in the finished work of Christ on the cross.
- And while the Holy Spirit dwells within us, our sin nature persists, and we are not complete.
- That was the primary focus of the last part of chapter seven which Paul concludes with a desperate cry and then a declaration of hope (**Romans 7:24-25**).

²⁴ **O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?** ²⁵ **I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord!**

- We are eagerly waiting to be delivered from our sin nature, this body of death.
- We are eager for heaven, but at the same time we are patient.
- No one knows the day of their departure to heaven.

- In the meantime, you are here for a reason.
- Seek the Lord and let the Holy Spirit guide you to what He is calling you to do.
- So far, creation is groaning, waiting for the revelation of the glory of Christ-followers.
- **Romans 8:26-27**
- Christ-followers are groaning waiting for the redemption of the body for glory.
- Now we see the Holy Spirit is groaning in His prayers for us.
- Maybe you noticed a word that was repeated several times in this text, the word ‘hope’.
- There were also phrases like ‘eagerly waiting’ or ‘eager expectation’ which also speak of hope.

Hope: a looking forward to in confident expectation.

- Hope looks ahead in time and expects some good to come.
- At the same time, the text began talking about the suffering that we endure in a fallen world.
- Hope is one of the things that enables us to endure the suffering that comes to everyone in this fallen world.
- When we think about suffering, we might associate it with persecution or some sort of physical pain.
- Suffering is not limited to pain or loss.
- Suffering is the consequence of sin.
- Wherever sin exists, some amount of suffering also exists.
- Suffering is the fruit of sin.
- Any unpleasantness in our life could be suffering.
- I say ‘could be’ because sometimes our wicked hearts will interpret something as suffering that is not.
- If the barista misspells your name on your coffee order, that is not suffering.
- Everyone experiences suffering differently and in different aspects of their life.
- Suffering can be physical, but it can also be emotional, relational, financial, spiritual, or any other way we interact with this world.
- As long as there is sin in the world there will be suffering.

- Paul started this text by saying that no amount of suffering in this life even comes close to comparing it to the glory that awaits us in heaven.
- Paul is telling us not to focus on our suffering.
- That doesn't mean we ignore it, but we look past it to the glory that is beyond it – that is our hope.
- God is going to bring us through to the other side.
- There is a verse in Psalm 23 that ministers to me about that (**Psalm 23:4**).

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

- We suffer as we walk through the valley.
- But notice, we don't camp out in the valley, we don't build a house in the valley, we walk through it.
- Our hope is in the promise of God's presence in the valley.
- He will bring us through to the other side of the valley.
- One of the reasons we encourage you to read your Bible every day is because the Bible is filled with promises from God to you.
- The foundation of our hope is the promises we find in God's Word.
- Turn to **2 Corinthians 1**. Suffering is a part of life in a fallen world.
- Next week, we look at the promise that God will use everything, including suffering, for some kind of good.
- Paul gives us a sense of that here in 2 Corinthians.
- **2 Corinthians 1:3-7**
- Humans are not static creatures.
- Everything that touches our life has the possibility of changing us in some way, either for the good or for the worse.
- It is faith that determines if suffering makes you weaker or stronger.
- This text ends with a statement that ought to give us great comfort in our suffering.
- We are told that the Holy Spirit makes intercession for the saints.
- If you are a Christ-follower, you are one of the saints.
- God, the holy Spirit lives in you.
- He knows everything there is to know about you.
- He knows your suffering.
- He knows why you are suffering and where it comes from.

- He knows why God has allowed this suffering into your life and what God is working to accomplish through your suffering.
- And He knows what you need so that you can endure the suffering as you walk through the valley.
- Knowing all of that, the Holy Spirit intercedes, or petitions God on your behalf.
- He is speaking to your Abba Father in heaven about what you need, even when you have no idea how to pray.
- Because He is one with God the Father, the Holy Spirit always prays the will of the Father.
- In our suffering, whether it is small or great, our part is to trust, believe, and obey.
- As we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, we must choose to take comfort in the presence of God, the Holy Spirit in our life.
- We must trust in His Word and watch for His directions.
- Suffering is inevitable while living in a fallen world.
- All suffering is temporary, even if it lasts for the rest of our lives.
- It cannot follow us to heaven.
- And compared to the glory of heaven, it is nothing.
- In this life it is something.
- Take comfort in God the Holy Spirit's presence, in the promises of God's Word, and the hope we have of a future free from suffering.
- If you find yourself in the valley of the shadow of death, cling to the Holy Spirit and just keep walking.
- **Pray! Last Song!**