

Jesus Strong!

Rock #4:

Hope of Heaven: From Groaning to Glory

Romans 8:18-25

Our Present Problem:

Suffering (Romans 8:18)

Suffering is the state of undergoing pain, distress, or hardship.

Just living authentically in the Spirit under the tyranny of a fallen world, as Paul did, will bring enough suffering on its own. Church Swindoll

Paul knew suffering- 2 Corinthians 11:22-23

Jesus knew suffering- Hebrews 4:15

We are sharing in suffering- Romans 8:17

God is the ultimate salvage artist. He loves to restore things to their original condition and make them even better. Randy Alcorn- Heaven

Sin (Romans 8:19-21)

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory God.

Romans 3:23

For the essence of sin is man substituting himself for God, while the essence on salvation is God substituting himself for man. John Stott

Sin must be fought, Satan must be resisted, sickness must be prayed over and groaned under, and death must be endured until the second coming of the King and the consummation of the kingdom. John Piper

Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Matthew 6:10-11

Our Eternal Solution:

Hope (Romans 8:22-25)

Paul says in verse 20, creation was subjected to futility.

The author of Ecclesiastes talks of the futility of man.

There once was in a man a true happiness of which

there now remain to him only the mark and
empty trace, which he in vain tries to fill from all his
surroundings, seeking from things absent to
help he does not obtain things present...But these
are all inadequate, because the infinite abyss
can only be filled by an infinite and immutable
object, that is to say, only by God himself.
Blaise Pascal

There is a way that seems right to a person, but its
end is the way of death. Proverbs 14:12

Claiming to be wise, they became fools and
exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images
resembling mortal man, birds, four-footed animals,
and reptiles. Romans 1:22-23

Once you were alienated and hostile in your minds
expressed in your evil actions. But now he
has reconciled you by his physical body through his
death, to present you holy, faultless, and
blameless before him- Colossians 1:21-22

His Glory (Romans 8:18)

And there will no longer be any curse. The throne of God
and of the Lamb will be in the city, and
his servants will worship him. Revelation 22:3

Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the Lord's work, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain. 1 Corinthians 15:58

Application

Have you experienced the hope of heaven in your life? What things are you trying to endure apart from a relationship with Jesus?

How do you need to experience the renewing power of God in your life today?

Bible Reading Plan for the week of May 27th:

Monday- Hebrews 12:1-13

Tuesday- Romans 8:18-25

Wednesday- Isaiah 35

Thursday- Revelations 21:1-5

Friday- Amos 9:11-15

Saturday- Romans 8:26-27

Life Group Discussion Guide for the week of May 27th, 2018

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Romans 8:18-25

Main thought: God is a God of renewal. He will one day make all things new. The creation he declared as good in Genesis 1 & 2, will again enjoy that goodness and perfection of Eden. How are we living in the present with the hope of heaven?

Opening Discussion:

Talk with your group about the first four rocks of truth from the Romans 8 series. How have the four rocks (grace, Holy Spirit power, Abba, and heaven) resonated with where you are in your life, family, work, and community?

Ask your group to give a description, drawing, or image of what they think of when they think of heaven.

Explore:

In Romans 8:18 and again in 2 Corinthians 4:17, Paul describes the present suffering as momentary in the context of eternity. Discuss how Paul reasoned to have such an eternal perspective on his present suffering, while considering the challenges we face to do the same.

Consider Isaiah 65:17, 66:2; 2 Peter 3:10-13; Revelation 21:1. How do these passages encourage the Christ-follower to endure the present hardships in light of what is to come? What are the similarities we find in these passages about the coming of a new heaven and new earth?

Where and how do we see glimpses (Romans 8:23) of God's kingdom today?

The great news of the gospel is that we aren't trusting in our own strength to persevere in faith. We are trusting in God's promise to uphold us.

Read Philippians 1:1-6. How did Paul feel about the Philippian church? How confident was Paul about their perseverance in faith? How do these words from Paul encourage you to persevere in faith amidst suffering?

APPLY

How will the hope of heaven influence your worship of the one true king this week?

2 Corinthians 5:11-21 tells us we have been given a ministry of reconciliation. How will you be an agent of the kingdom of God to bring reconciliation to your home, work, school, and life this week?

Further Reading Recommendations:

Heaven by Randy Alcorn; Explicit Gospel by Matt Chandler; The Pursuit of Holiness by Jerry Bridges