

Week 7: Suffering in Christ

Romans 8:18-30

Note: For this study you'll need to **print out the passage** for your group members

Pray for our mission partners and your time time in the word

Context

1. What do you remember from last week's passage? What was the main point?

Prompts if needed

Notice

Read the Passage as a **group**

2. Re-read the passage **on your own** and **mark:**
Changes of gear/topic, steps of logic || Key words or ideas || Questions you have
3. Share **with a partner** and together discuss:
 - a. What you found most interesting
 - b. The main issue the passage seems to be addressing (explain from the passage).
 - c. The most important question to resolve in order to understand the passage well.
4. Briefly share your answers to the above (don't answer Q's yet)

5. What connections do you notice between this passage and verses 14-17 before?

Prompts if needed

- If Christ is the Son, what can we expect if we are also sons in him? (v17)
- Use butcher's paper and do this together as a diagram. (Note especially:
 - What can we expect of the present
 - What is God doing in our present?)

6. This passage gives a grand overview of history - past, present, future. What are the key features of each period?(past, pres. fut.)

Clarify

7. As a group (or as the leader)
 - a. resolve which **question(s)** are worth exploring (1 or 2)
 - b. Discuss: How does the text (or the context of Romans) help answer the question?
8. As a group,
 - a. resolve what you think the **main point** of the passage is.

resolving questions

- a) Brainstorm possible options
- b) Does the text rule out any options?
- c) What options get the best support
 - i) From this text; From Romans; From elsewhere in the Bible (in that order)

"Subjected to frustration" - what could this be referring to? - see Rom 5:12, Gen 3:17-19, Rev 22:1-3

"Await our adoption"

"Predestined" what do you think is the emphasis of verse 30? (more in coming weeks)

Respond

9. What kind of impact do you think this passage is intended to have?
10. What kind of impact should it have? On
 - a. What you believe
 - b. What you want in life
 - c. What you do this week

- What in this passage gives us confidence about the future?
- How does having God's big view of history help understand life now? What changes in our hopes and expectations?
- The call to christian contentment, can leave us feeling that expressing discomfort is ungodly. How does the language of groaning help with this?
- The idea of waiting is repeated. What might it look like to wait eagerly and patiently for Jesus? How can we help each other do this?

Pray in response to the passage, then in pairs

18 I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. 19 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.

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.

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. 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.