



Bible studies for disciples who make disciples

Loudonville Community Church

Volume 6 - Number 6
The week of December 13, 2020

Sermon Series: *A Thrill of Hope*
Practicing Hope
Romans 8:18-25

This week's passage is located in the middle of a theologically rich chapter of scripture in Romans 8. I encourage you to read the entire chapter as you get started in order to gain valuable context for deeper study. As we enter into this specific passage, verse 18 sets up a contrast that is also an important biblical theme. There is a tension of "already, but not yet" found throughout the Bible. The sufferings of "the present age" are contrasted with the glory of "the age to come." This powerful theme takes on life in our passage this week.

Read Romans 8:18

1. What were some of the sufferings that Paul may have been referring to in his own life and ministry? How do the sufferings of the 1st century church compare to the 21st century church?
2. If we are in Christ, why are we made to suffer? What biblical passages connect suffering to the life of a disciple?
3. What is the glory waiting to be revealed?

We read that it is not just Paul and the Roman church that experience suffering, but creation itself. Paul uses poetic language to describe the effects of sin on creation itself but also describes how creation eagerly awaits future glory as well.

Read Romans 8:19-22

4. The Greek word for “eager longing” is “**apokaradokía**.” Its meaning communicates a sense of excited waiting and it even describes someone with a neck straining forward as if to see something truly exciting. For what do you have (or have you had) an “eager longing”? How do you describe that sense of excitement?

5. This passage talks about creation itself longing for the revealing of the sons of God, being in bondage, and groaning together. Read Genesis 3:17-19 and discuss how that all started and the implications for the creation since the fall of man.

6. How do we see creation groaning in waiting in our world today? How will that change at the last day? Read Revelation 21:1-4 and discuss what the new creation may look like.

Paul shifts his focus from the creation to us. He uses the same word for “eager longing” to describe our waiting in hope for the coming glory that he referenced in verse 18.

Read Romans 8:23

7. How does the theme of “already, but not yet” apply to our lives of faith as believers, our salvation, and our sanctification?

8. If we are already adopted into the family of God and have already been redeemed, why does Paul include these as things we are eagerly awaiting?

9. What are the first fruits of the Spirit to which Paul refers?

10. Read 1 Corinthians 15:51-57. Based on this text and what we know of the resurrection body of Christ, what will the “redemption of our bodies” be like?

Finally in this section, Paul turns his attention to the real hope that embodies our faith, in which the “eager anticipation” is based.

Read Romans 8:24,25

11. What is the “blessed hope” of a believer in Jesus, based on Paul’s description in this passage? Why has it not been realized yet?

12. What fuels your faith with hope even now in the present age?

13. What do you believe the reality of Heaven will be like? What scriptures can help inform that belief?

Romans 8:18-25

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.

¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹ 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. ²³ And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Read the Bible: Reading Plan for 2020

Sunday, December 13 thru Saturday, December 19, 2020

2 Chronicles 14-15, Revelation 4, Haggai 2, John 3; 2 Chron. 16, Rev. 5, Zechariah 1, John 4; 2 Chron. 17, Rev. 6, Zech. 2, John 5; 2 Chron. 18, Rev. 7, Zech. 3, John 6; ; 2 Chron. 19-20, Rev. 8, Zech. 4, John 7; ; 2 Chron. 21, Rev. 9, Zech. 5, John 8; 2 Chron. 22-23, Rev. 10, Zech. 6, John 9

