

Abide in Me

John 15:4
*Bible studies for disciples
who make disciples*



Volume 9 - Number 25

The Week of May 12, 2024

Dying to Live
Living with Hope in a Hurting World
Romans 8:18-25

Welcome to the 6th week in our series *Dying to Live* (Romans 6-8). In today's passage, we will find the Apostle Paul's perspective on suffering which empowers us to live with hope in a hurting world. We will learn why this world is currently disordered (the Fall) and how it longs to be renewed and free to fully reflect God's peace, harmony and perfection. In describing creation's longing for redemption, Paul introduced the image of childbirth and stated that all of creation (and "we ourselves") are groaning together in the pains of childbirth. What is it that we long for and groan for? It is the culmination of our salvation, the redemption of our bodies, and the arrival of God's glorious kingdom, where there is no more sin, no more sickness and no more suffering. Like a woman in labor, we look forward in eager hope while we wait patiently for our time to come.

OBSERVATION (*What does the passage say?*)

Before meeting with your Growth Group, read through the passage at least twice and perform the following prompts:

- Circle each occurrence of the word *hope*.
- Place parenthesis around the word *creation*.
- Draw a box around the word *glory*.
- Underline the word *wait(s)*.
- Double underline the word *groaning*.
- Label in the margin whether the text refers to the past, the present, or the future.

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 firstfruits 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.

INTERACT WITH THE TEXT

1. What's your reaction to Paul's statement in verse 18? Is that how you consider things? Why or why not?
2. What kind of suffering do we face in this present time?
3. What strikes you about the glory that will be revealed to us?
4. How does Paul's calculated perspective change the way you view trials?
5. How does having hope make a difference when we suffer?
6. Think of someone who is tempted to lose hope and perhaps their faith in Christ because of difficult trials. How would you use the truth of this text to help such a person?

