

More than Conquerors!

(The Greatest Chapter: ROMANS EIGHT)

desert breeze
community church



Saturday & Sunday, August 6/7, 2016 Ray Davis

“Hope in Suffering” Romans 8:18-27

Do you have the hope of God that can endure the most severe suffering?

Why Suffering?

Two Wrong Answers:

- 1) **God is not in control.** Matt 10:29; Matt8:27; Pro16:33
- 2) **God is not good.** Nahum 1:7; Ps145:7; Ps34:8

Two Right Answers:

1) **It is the obvious consequences of man’s horrific rebellion against a Holy & Loving God meant to bring our hearts back to Him.** Vv20-21; Gen3; Ps119:67, 71

2) **So that Christians can display that Christ is more desirable and satisfying than all that life can give or suffering and death can take away.** Vv17-18, 24-25; Phil2:14-15, 3:8

How Can I Have Hope In Suffering?

1) **Power** v23 We...have the firstfruits of the Spirit...v26 The Spirit helps us in our weakness...vv4, 10-11; 2Cor12:9, 9:8; Eph1:16-21

2) **Perspective** v18 The sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. v19 For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. v23 We wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. 2Cor4:16-18

We are living between the “Already” but “Not Yet”.

This means that there are two ways that we can become unbalanced.

We can over-stress the “already” of the kingdom to the exclusion of the “not yet.”

- ✓ Give pat answers & expect quick solutions to problems.
- ✓ Fail to expect any suffering or tragedy.
- ✓ Under-estimate the power of remaining sin in our hearts.
- ✓ Too dogmatic and divisive over non-essential doctrine.
- ✓ Harshly critical of imperfect churches jumping from church to church over perceived blemishes.
- ✓ Overly optimistic in the political or social agenda to bring righteousness on earth (utopian society).

We can over-stress the “not yet” of the kingdom to the exclusion of the “already.”

- ✓ Overly pessimistic about change in people, the church & society.
- ✓ Little confidence for life change and overcoming enslaving habits.
- ✓ Liberal when it comes to the essentials of Christian doctrine.
- ✓ Turn a blind eye to the flaws of their local church and also fail to see that the local church can be a catalyst for revival in the community.
- ✓ Withdraw from engaging the world, too afraid of being polluted by it.

2Cor6:10; 1Thess4:13; John16:33

3) **Prayer** Vv14-15 Prayer that touches the Father’s heart! (Ps56:8-9)

Vv26-27 Our access to the Father is not only through the Son, but by the Spirit (Eph2:18). The Holy’s Spirit’s inspiration is as necessary as the Son’s mediation. Through the Holy Spirit the deepest desires, longings and burdens of our hearts— can be engaged with and satisfied in Christ. It also means that God will give to us what we would have asked for if we knew everything He knew.

Growing Notes

1) How does suffering reveal your motivations in the faith? What do you think it means to have the hope of God that can endure the most severe sufferings?

2) Read Romans 8:18-26. What stands out to you from this text? How did Paul describe the difference between the present & future (v18)? What are we told about nature (vv19-22)? What are we told about ourselves (v23)? What gives us patience in suffering (vv24-25)? How does the Holy Spirit help us in our suffering (vv26-27)?

3) What are the two wrong answers & the two right answers to suffering? How would those wrong answers affect your life if you believed them? How should these right answers to suffering affect your life?

4) Review the three points on how we can have hope in our suffering. What kind of Holy Spirit power can we expect in suffering (vv10-11; 2Cor12:9, 9:8; Eph1:16-21)? How does knowing that we live between the “already” but “not yet” keep us balanced & filled with hope (2Cor6:10; 1Thess4:13; John16:33)? What kind of prayer touches the Father’s heart & helps us in suffering (vv14-25, 26-27)? What is God speaking to you? Pray.