

Life in the Spirit: Help with Suffering, Part 1
Romans 8:18-25

Getting Started

- ❖ This passage speaks to creation and nature's pain due to the Fall. In the garden, humanity received from God the "creation mandate" which calls on us to be stewards of His creation. What are your views on environmentalism and creation care? How do your views affect your decisions, your purchases, your politics, or your actions?
- ❖ **Opening Prayer Time:** Who do you know in our church or community who is going through a time of suffering? Begin your prayer time by interceding on their behalf. (Note: We will pray for group member burdens and trials at later.)

Digging Deeper

- ❖ **Reread and discuss Romans 8:18-25.**
 - This passage greatly focuses on the future aspect of the gospel. The gospel is past (Christ's ministry, death, and resurrection), present (the Spirit's work in our lives), and future (the glory to be revealed at Christ's return). Study the passage and identify which elements are past, present or future.
 - Rom. 8:19-22 demonstrates how creation plays an important role in the story of God's redemption in this world.
 - How would you summarize what this passage is teaching about creation in your own words?
 - How does the biblical perspective on creation in this passage critique those who do not give thought to how they treat environment? How does it critique those who make creation care the main cause of their lives?
 - Based on this passage, how might you inject the gospel into a conversation about environmentalism?
 - How does recognizing your inheritance in God change your view of: money and wealth? relationships? the many or few opportunities you have in life?
 - The sermon highlighted verse 18 for many reasons but one of the reasons is how it portrays suffering as being "worth it".
 - Look through the sermon text together as a group: where does the "worth-it-ness" of suffering appear in these verses? What lessons on this does Paul draw from creation in particular?
 - How would someone with a "worth-it-ness" approach to suffering respond to hardship compared to someone without that approach? What would be different in emotional response? Effect on relationships? Effect on one's purpose in life?

(Over)

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❖ **Applying this sermon to Our Lives**

- Not groaning?
 - Is life going well for you right now? Praise God! But how is that affecting your longings for heaven? Do you find yourself so satisfied with life that you don't always long for heaven? Why?
 - Do you have unresolved issues in this life that causes you to not look forward to heaven – relationships, lack of impact, regret? What would be a Christ-centered way to process those things so that you can begin to long for heaven?

Think About It!

Knowing what Christ went through, we might be tempted to question whether the suffering is worth it. Maybe serving the flesh is the better route after all. Paul quashes this idea by stating that our present battle against our sinful flesh is nothing in comparison to the glory that awaits us. Suffering sounds so ominous from our perspective, and it is. But if we exchange our short-sighted view for a long-range perspective, we'll see that what lies in store for us—and we will have no doubt that what we endure in this lifetime will be worth it in the long run. (Steven Runge)

Praying Together

This week share with one another areas of suffering and tribulation being experienced by group members and pray for one another. Depending on the situation, discuss whether the group needs to care for a member in an extraordinary way.

(Note: In this year's study of Romans, our study questions are being inspired by or derived from books, commentaries and bible studies authored by: Pastors Matt Smith, Max Lucado, John MacArthur, R.C. Sproul, Jack Hayford and Tim Keller.)

WORSHIP RESOURCE

February 2, 2020 | Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

WORSHIP SONGS

THE LION AND THE LAMB

Words and Music by Brenton Brown, Brian Johnson, and Leeland Mooring, 2015

He's coming on the clouds kings and kingdoms will bow down,
And every chain will break as broken hearts declare
His praise. For who can stop the Lord Almighty?

*Our God is the Lion the Lion of Judah, He's roaring with power
and fighting our battles, and every knee will bow before Him.
Our God is the Lamb the Lamb that was slain, for the sins of the
world His blood breaks the chains, and every knee will bow before
the Lion and the Lamb, every knee will bow before Him.*

So open up the gates make way before the King of kings.
Our God who comes to save is here to set the captives free.
For who can stop the Lord Almighty?

WHO YOU SAY I AM

Words and Music by Ben Fielding and Reuben Morgan, 2018

Who am I that the highest King would welcome me. I was lost,
but He brought me in. Oh, His love for me. Oh, His love for me.

*Who the Son sets free, oh, is free indeed. I'm a child of God, yes I am.
In my Father's house is a place for me. I'm a child of God, yes I am.*

Free at last, He has ransomed me. His grace runs deep.
While I was a slave to sin, Jesus died for me. Yes, He died for me.

I am chosen, not forsaken. I am who You say I am.
You are for me, not against me. I am who You say I am.

IS HE WORTHY

Words and Music by Ben Shive and Andrew Peterson, 2018

Do you feel the world is broken, we do.
Do you feel the shadows deepen, we do.
But do you know that all the dark won't stop the light from
getting through, we do. Do you wish you that you could
see it all made new, we do.

Is all creation groaning, it is. Is a new creation coming, it is.
Is the glory of the Lord to be the light within our midst, it is.
Is it good that we remind ourselves of this, it is.

*Is anyone worthy, is anyone whole.
Is anyone able to break the seals and open the scroll.
The Lion of Judah, who conquered the grave,
He is David's root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave.
Is He worthy, is He worthy of all blessing and honor and glory?
Is He worthy of this, He is.*

Does the Father truly love us, He does.
Does the Spirit move among us, He does.
And does Jesus our Messiah hold forever those He loves, He does.
Does our God intend to dwell again with us, He does.

From every people and tribe, every nation and tongue,
He has made us a kingdom and priest to God to reign with the Son.

YES I WILL

Words and Music by Eddie Hoagland, Mia Fieldes, and Jonathan Smith, 2018

I count on one thing: the same God that never fails
will not fail me now, You won't fail me now.
In the waiting, the same God who's never late
is working all things out. You're working all things out.

*Yes, I will lift You high in the lowest valley.
Yes, I will bless Your name.
Yes, I will sing for joy when my heart is heavy.
All my days, yes, I will.*

I choose to praise, to glorify, glorify,
the name of all names that nothing can stand against.

DAILY READINGS | BOOK OF COMMON WORSHIP

SUNDAY | Ps. 108; Genesis 18:16-33; Gal. 5:13-25; Mark 8:22-30
MONDAY | Ps. 73; Genesis 19:1-29; Heb. 11:1-12; John 6:27-40
TUESDAY | Ps. 12; Genesis 21:1-21; Hebrews 11:13-22; John 6:41-51
WEDNESDAY | Ps. 96; Genesis 22:1-18; Heb. 11:23-31; John 6:52-59
THURSDAY | Ps. 26; Gen. 23:1-20; Heb. 11:32-12:2; John 6:60-71
FRIDAY | Ps. 84; Genesis 24:1-27; Heb. 12:3-11; John 7:1-13
SATURDAY | Ps. 90; Genesis 24:28-51; Heb. 12:12-29; John 7:14-36

PRAYER OF RENEWAL

God our deliverer,
you walk with the meek and the poor,
the compassionate and those who mourn,
and you call us to walk humbly with you.
When we are foolish, be our wisdom;
when we are weak, be our strength;
that, as we learn to do justice
and to love mercy,
your rule may come as blessing. Amen.



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ON SPOTIFY!
SEARCH
COVENANTCREATIVE**