

Life Group Notes

Sunday 28 October 2018

Speaker: Liz Green

Series: Heights of Love

Title: Future Glory

Passage: Romans 8:18-25

In these few verses, Paul points the Romans to the 'incomparable' glory that awaits the believer. This is part of the Christian's assurance, their inheritance.

We went through each of the verses in the passage:

V 18 - 'This present age' is plagued by suffering but a glory is to be revealed that is beyond anything followers of Christ could imagine. When Christ comes he will usher in a new age. Rev 21 gives us a glimpse of what Jesus is bringing with him when he returns.

Spurgeon illustrated this verse by saying that our suffering is like a drop of water compared to the oceans of glory that are our future!

V19 – Creation 'eagerly longs' for this new age. Creation is personified as craning its neck, standing on tiptoes as it waits to be caught up in the new creation.

V20, 21 – As a result of Gen 3 and the fall, God cursed the ground. Creation has been affected by Adam's sin, but always in hope that one day it would know freedom.

V22 – Just as the pains of childbirth are the sign of new life, of a woman's body bringing into being that which she has longed for, so creation 'groans' with desire for a new order.

V23 – The firstfruits of the Spirit indicate; a. first batch – a foretaste of what is to come and b. downpayment or pledge - that the full amount will follow. God's Spirit in us gives us a taste of the Kingdom of Heaven and assures us that we will receive our full salvation in due course.

But we live in the 'now and not yet'. Whilst the paper work for adoption has been signed, we still await to be taken to our true home.

The more the Holy Spirit works in, and changes us, the more we know that there is so much more of him to enjoy and live in the fullness of.

V24, 25 – We have a hope that is sure and certain; a confident expectation of what is to come.

1 Peter 1: 3-5 explains that the hope we have today is for a glorious future because it is anchored to a past event (not dependant on us), the resurrection of Christ from the dead.

In this truth and hope we live today!

Questions:

- When have you thought of 'throwing in the towel' on your faith due to challenge/pain/suffering?
- How does seeing the pain and suffering that sin cause in this world make you respond to your own sin?
- How does knowing that we have received the 'firstfruits of the Spirit' encourage you?
- What does it look like for you to live in light of the 'glory that is to be revealed'? How does it change your perspective on how you live today?