

REFLECTIONS ON WAITING

ROMANS 8:18-30

CHURCH GROUP SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE – SEPTEMBER 10, 2023

SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 8:18-30 ESV

Future Glory

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.

26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. 27 And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. 28 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. 29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. 30 And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

ICE BREAKER QUESTION

In your life, what are you waiting on the LORD for? What unmet longing do you carry?

SERMON RECAP

Five reminders that our souls need in seasons of waiting:

- Remember that God is sovereign over everyone and everything.
- Remember that God loves you more than you know.
- Remember that God loves others more than you do.
- Remember that God is the goal.
 - Let waiting lead you to deeper intimacy with God.
 - Let waiting lead you to greater dependence on God.
 - Let waiting lead you to grow in holiness before God.
 - Let waiting lead you to give more glory to God.
- Remember that God is at work. As you wait, never stop praying with faith...
 - In who God is.
 - In what God can do.
 - In what God will do.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Observation: What does the passage say?

1. Read Romans 8:18-30 aloud as a group. Take time to let group members share observations about the passage. Try not to move into interpretation of the passage or application of what you have read quite yet. Simply share what you all observe from the text.
 - What is the backdrop of this passage? (vv. 19, 22-23)

- Who subjected creation to futility? (vv. 20-21)
 - What does the process of waiting entail on our part?
 - What does the process of waiting entail on the LORD's (including the Spirit's) part?
 - What does the process of waiting yield? (vv. 20-21, 24-30)
2. How would you explain or summarize today's passage in your own words?

Interpretation: What does the passage mean?

1. In subjecting creation to futility (e.g., in our times of waiting), what is the LORD's ultimate end or purpose? (vv. 18-19, 30; cf. v.28)
2. What evidence of God's goodness, what reasons for hope, can be found in times of waiting? (cf. Isaiah 40:28-31)

Application: How can we apply this passage to our lives?

1. What aspects or circumstances of your life challenge your ability to believe that God loves you and is for you? What does this reveal about uncertainties in your heart regarding the truth of His word?
2. Think of a period of trial or waiting that you have experienced. What spiritually encouraged and sustained you during this period? How did you see the LORD reveal His glory through or following this period? Share stories of encouragement in your Church Group, and praise the LORD for His faithfulness.
3. What is your deepest longing? When you consider the thing for which you are waiting on the LORD, how does your longing for that thing compare to your longing for the LORD Himself?
4. How do you want the LORD to grow your hope and trust in and love for Him? How might you pursue deeper trust in and love for Him? How might your Church Group support you in this?

LEADER NOTES

- Global Outreach Prayer Guide | As a group, pray for the Global Outreach weekly prayer focus. You can view the guide [here](#)
- Church Family Meeting | Sunday, September 24. If you have any questions about this meeting, make sure to check out the email from Pastor David sent last weekend, or reach out to your Location Pastor.
- Recommend Reading | "Waiting on God" by Andrew Murray