

THE LIVING ROOM COMMUNITY CHURCH

SUNDAY, JULY 25, 2021

HOW WE THRIVE WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH, AND STAYS THERE

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Romans 8:17–39

Suffering is to be expected in the present world (see 8:18-22) and for believers especially because of our relationship with Christ. (cf. Mk 10:30; Jn 15:20; 16:33; 1 Th 3:3; 2 Tim 3:12; 1 Pt 5:10)

¹⁷ and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, *provided we suffer with him* in order **that we may also be glorified with him.**

A healthy perspective in the light of the glory that awaits.

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.** (An eternal perspective)

What is the glory that is to be revealed to us? It's us!

Even creation is eagerly waiting because of the hope we have in Christ.

¹⁹ For the creation **waits with eager longing** for **the revealing of the sons of God.**

Why even creation is decaying before our very eyes!

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.**

We groan under the pressure of the present situation (the inevitability of suffering) along with all of creation, but not without hope.

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**,
(cf. Eph 1:13-14, 2 Co 1:22; 5:5)

Even our aches and pains are a reminder of what is to come.

Our Destiny

groan inwardly as **we wait eagerly** for **adoption as sons**, (cf. Gal. 5:5)
the redemption of our bodies. (cf. Rom. 7:24)

We understand that the very nature of hope is, “not yet!”

A healthy kind of dissatisfaction!

²⁴ For in this hope we were saved.

Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? (cf. 2 Co 4:18; Heb 11:1)

²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, **we wait for it with patience.**

But we have divine help for our situation RIGHT NOW!

✚ **The certainty that our prayers are heard, even when we don't know what to say.**

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.**

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✚ The promise of a productive life and a glorious future.

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.**

So, if all of this is true, what then shall we say considering the present situation?

³¹ What then shall we say to these things?

Is the Gospel having any impact on your life?

- **If God is for us, who can be against us?**

³² He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

- **³³ Who shall bring any charge against God's elect?**

It is God who justifies.

- **³⁴ Who is to condemn?**

Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

- **³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?**

Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?

³⁶ As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.” (*Psm.44:22*)

²¹ But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— ²² the **righteousness** of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are **justified** by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's **righteousness**, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. ²⁶ It was to show his **righteousness** at the present time, so that he might be **just** and the **justifier** of the one who has faith in Jesus. (*Rm 3:21-26*)

WE WIN! And we WAIT in eager anticipation!

³⁷ No, in all these things we are **more than conquerors** through him who loved us.

³⁸ For I am sure that neither death nor life,

nor angels nor rulers,

nor things present nor things to come,

nor powers,

³⁹ nor height nor depth,

nor anything else in all creation,

will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

How then does any of this become real enough to us so that we can say with the apostle Paul,

“I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.”