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| 1  Romans 8:14-27 Sermon Outline  01/19/25  “Your Suffering Is Not Meaningless”  **INTRO:**  Once a man who walked on this earth, Jesus = considered greatest man born of woman  What greater honor? Privilege?  Humility made our humility look like pride in comparison = not worthy to untie sandal straps  Content to be heard as a voice, not even to be seen  Bold as a lion = confronted King Herod’s adultery with Herodias, wife of brother Phillip  “It is not lawful for you to have your brother’s wife”  Herodias = hated John | 2  Mark 6 “*was holding a grudge against him and was wanting to put him to death and was not able; for Herod was afraid of John*.”  As John rotting away in prison = Herod = party/banquet  Herodias’s daughter = sexual dance for guests  Herod = up to half my kingdom  Herodias to mom = what shall I ask?  Herodias = head of John the Baptist  Herod regretfully grants this request = imagine executioner with guards comes in and drags John out of prison. John’s thoughts are racing through his head and he asks what’s going on  Then in a moment, his head is taken off  If one incident of suffering could be labeled as meaningless this would be it |
| 3  GOD HOW COULD YOU LET THAT HAPPEN?!!  JOHN THE BAPTIST = GREATEST MAN BORN OF WOMAN!  JESUS HOW COULD YOU LET SOMETHING SO VILE, SO SICK, SO EVIL HAPPEN?  WHILE EVERYONE ELSE IS HAVING A DRUNKEN ORGY, JOHN THE BAPTIST IS HERE BEING BEHEADED!  GOD WHY??!! WHY?!  HAVE YOU ABANDONED HIM?!  But as cruel and as pointless as this all might have seemed, John’s suffering was not meaningless  God didn’t abandon him  It had a purpose just like how the suffering you are going through or will go through will have a purpose  I don’t talk about suffering lightly, I have not experienced it | 4  But I come delivering the words of the one who has known suffering of this kind  He is the one who is described in Hebrews 2:10 as  **“***the one who it was fitted for Him, for whom are all things, and through whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to perfect the author of their salvation through sufferings.*”  Paul said in 2 Corinthians 4 that suffering is  *Preparing in us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison*.”  When we suffer = tempted = that is it = meaningless  pointless  But no, each ounce of suffering you experience in life is producing in you an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison! |
| 5  Last week we looked at all in Christ = no condemnation  Spirit of God lives inside of us enabling/assisting us to live for Him  = Putting to dead the deeds of the body = proof that you are one of his  VV. 12-13 “*So then, brothers, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die, but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the practices of the body, you will live*.”  Which leads us right into verses 14 and 15  “*For as many as are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons by whom we cry out “Abba! Father!*”  If you are putting to death the practices of your sinful flesh, you are being led by the Spirit = sons of God! | 6  No way if you are a legitimate son that you are still a slave  Old man = slave master = died = H.S. = new master  Spirit = not of slavery to lead you into fear  Old man threatened you with eternal punishment if you sinned  Hell is the wages that your master would have given you for a life of sinning  Rom. 6:23 “*For the wages of sin is death*”  But no, you received a Spirit of “Adoption” = cry out from the bottom of our hearts “Abba, Father!”  Salvation more than regeneration = Creator  Salvation more than justification = Judge  Salvation also adoption = Heavenly Father  Abba = intimate father  Father = pateir = legal father |
| 7  If you grew up in a family where your father never loved you in the way he should have  Or maybe in a family that had no father at all  Know that you can cry out to Him as your heavenly Father  The same God who slams the gavel down and declares you innocent takes off his robes of being a judge and takes you home from the courtroom to his home as your father  And we can experience this sonship that we have in Him in our hearts through the H.Spirit!  V. 16 “*The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God*.”  In a mysterious way = can’t quite explain w/words = H.Spirit = continually confirming to our spirit that we are a child of God  Perhaps a time when you were hurt, abused, harassed, normally = anger/resentment | 8  But instead of that = overwhelming sense of peace and forgiveness = can’t explain = other than HS  It’s these types of feelings and confirmations  V. 17 “*and if children, also heirs, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him*.”  If you are truly a child of God = right to His inheritance  Except = not stuff/wealth/possessions = God Himself!  Inheritance = John 17:3 “*This is eternal life, to know you the one true God, and to know Jesus Christ whom you have sent*.”  Before Christ = in Adam = we didn’t have God  We were estranged from God  Eph. 2:12 “*alienated from Christ, having no hope and without God in the world*.”  **ILLUST:** Mephibosheth dining at David’s table |
| 9  But now we have Jesus, the Father, the Holy Spirit  But here’s controversial truth:  “*if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him*.”  Saying we have quota to fill?  Do we need the “work” of suffering to earn eternal life?  No! = Of course not, = no different monks who live in temples on beds of nails  Suffering = mark of a true child of God  Hebrews 12 suffering = discipline, V. 7  *“It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.”* | 10  Suffering is not a matter of “IF” but “when”  Jesus John 15:18-21  “*If the world hates you, know that it has hated Me before it hated you.**If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A slave is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also. But all these things they will do to you for My name’s sake, because they do not know the One who sent Me*.”  Jn. 16:33 “*In this world, we have tribulation*”  But didn’t end note on suffering = but triumph  “*but take courage; I have overcome the world*”  Christ overcame the world, and all its sin = you would be glorified with Him |
| 11  The more and more you suffer the more the light of God’s glory shines through you  *ILLUST:*  Earthen vessel cracked = see the light of glory in it  When our jars of clay finally break open and shatter in death = the true glory and treasure that was inside of us will be finally revealed  That is why V. 18 Paul can say  “*For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us*.”  John the Baptist = not worthy to be compared…  Paul’s suffering = not worthy to be compared…  And put your name and your sufferings in that blank…is not worthy to be compared…  Paul = no stranger to suffering | 12  2 Corinthians 11:24-27  “*Five times I received from the Jews forty lashes less one.* (195 times, he was scarred on his back. It’s not just a whip but he would have been lashed by a whip that had bits of bone and metal and glass attached to it tearing into his flesh.) *Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked—a night and a day I have spent in the deep. I have been on frequent journeys, in dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from my countrymen, dangers from the Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the desolate places, dangers on the sea, dangers among false brothers. I have been in labor and hardship, in many sleepless nights, in starvation and thirst, often hungry, in cold and without enough clothing.”*  It’s easy for me to say Verse 18 because I haven’t gone through what Paul has gone through or what many of you have gone through or are going through right now |
| 13  But for someone to go through what Paul went through and still say that?! How?  He had an eternal perspective…that saw earthly trials and sufferings as “light and momentary afflictions” compared to the glory He would be experiencing for eternity  We weep with those who weep and mourn with those who mourn and there is a proper time and place to cry out to God and ask “Why O God?” like the psalmists did when they were experiencing trials and sufferings.  We acknowledge the sin and the brokenness of this world, we live in a twisted, fallen, corrupt, evil world where bad things happen to everyone, Christian and non-Christian alike  I hope you see that Verse 18 = talks not only suffering for our faith = but suffering in general  Cancer, tornados, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, wildfires, unexpected disease and death | 14  A car could come careening out of control and take away your mother who was holding your hand  A War that you never asked for suddenly comes upon a nation to devastate it  We are forgetful people and we too often forget that compared to eternity, this life is just a dot on the line that sees no end  We make life all about this dot in the line all too often instead of making it about the entire line  That whole line of eternity Paul talks about is the = glory that is to be revealed in us  Do we see more of the little dot of the line or the line itself?  V. 19 Although much of this fallen creation causes our suffering, creation also groans for us… |
| 15  “*For the anxious longing of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God*.”  When Adam sinned = not only humans but all of life = animal plant  No death before the Fall  Animals that were plant eaters now sink their teeth into the flesh other animals, tearing it apart  We see death all around us, animals on the side of the road, decayed and eaten by ants and worms  The wolf does not lie down with the lamp  The infant does not play around the hole of a cobra  Creation was subjected to “FUTILITY” = same word “VANITY” = Ecclesiastes | 16  But you know creation did not volunteer to be like this  God was the one who subjected it, not the devil, not man, God did “in hope”  Because He’s evil or hates us?  Why?  So that we would experience and behold a reality of His glory that we would have never come to experience or behold if we did not have suffering in this life  V. 22 “*For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pain of childbirth together until now*.”  But groans = not death groans = birth pangs/labor pains/contractions  Something new and wonderful is about to be born |
| 17  “*And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body*.”  If you have HS living inside of you = you should be groaning  because of corpse of old man on back  You are still awaiting adoption  Wait a minute Paul? I thought = V. 15 adopted already?  Notice V. 15 = “Spirit of adoption”  Not adoption itself, but the deposit that is guaranteeing our adoption  We have been adopted in a spiritual sense, our redeemed souls have been put in the legal paperwork of God’s adopted family | 18  But for us as children of God to enter into God’s household, His kingdom will come when our mortal bodies are redeemed  And then we experience full adoption  This “anxious longing” + “eager waiting” = filled with hope  V. 24 “*For in hope we were saved, but hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what he already sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we eagerly wait for it*.”  I think the capacity for us to have “hope” is one thing that set us apart from angels  Angels were not subject to the Fall like we were  They are not condemned like the human race  And so they don’t know what it’s like to experience condemnation and then to be set free from that condemnation in Christ |
| 19  1 Peter 1:12  The gospel and salvation are things that angels “long to look”  Again Hope = is not wishful thinking but certainty that what God has said will come about  We eagerly desire our faith to become sight, for the unseen to become seen  And so in that same way V. 26  “In the same way we eagerly wait with perseverance for God’s glory to be manifested full in our lives theSpirit *V. 26 also helps our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God*.”  The Spirit with the hope of Christ assists us in the areas where we don’t know how to respond in a godly manner | 20  Lit. “helps” = carries/shoulders our burdens for us  One pastor put it like this when it comes to suffering and prayer:  “Because of our imperfect perspectives, finite minds, human frailties, and spiritual limitations, we are not able to pray in absolute consistency with God’s will. Many times we are not even aware that spiritual needs exist, much less know how best they should be met. Even the Christian who prays sincerely, faithfully, and regularly cannot possibly know God’s purposes concerning all of his own needs or the needs of others for whom he prays.”  But the Spirit intercedes for us!  ILLUST:  HS in our prayers is like one trying to learn favorite song of orchestra through radio  Orchestra = will of God  Spirit = teacher |
| 21  Now you might ask “how was Paul able to withstand all that suffering?”  Well if Paul was alone in His suffering, he wouldn’t be able to stand  NOBODY WOULD!!  Only reason endure so much suffering = Lord was with Him through the Spirit  Towards end of his life  2 Tim. 4 “*At my first defense no one supported me, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them. But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that through me the preaching might be fulfilled, and that all the Gentiles might hear. And I was rescued out of the lion’s mouth.*”  His hope did not waver because it was not placed on things that are seen, people, circumstances,  But on the unseen Lord Jesus Christ | 22  2 Cor. 1:9  Paul calls his suffering  “sentence of death,” that Paul and his fellow believers have the *sentence of death within themselves so that they would not have confidence in themselves, but in God who raises the dead*.”  Next week we will see that nothing will be able to separate you from His love because God is for you and with you and loves you  Until then know that your suffering is not meaningless  Cancer is not meaningless  Suffering is not a sign that God has abandoned you  But rather a sign that God loves you and is actively working in and through you for you to trust in Him more and to produce in you an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison |
| 23  **Benediction:**  1 Peter 5:6-11  *“Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you. Be of sober spirit, be watchful. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. But resist him, firm in the faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished among your brethren who are in the world. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself restore, strengthen, confirm, and ground you. To Him be might forever and ever. Amen.”* |  |