

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF ERIE

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AUGUST 21, 2022

HANG ON TO HOPE

Romans 8 Series: “The Mountain Peak of Scripture –
Our Hymn Of Hope.”

ROMANS 8:18-25

Three weeks ago, we learned that there is **no condemnation for the Christ-follower V-1**. Two weeks ago, we rejoiced in the fact that we have been given the **Companionship of the Holy Spirit Vs. 2-11**. Then last week as we continued in our sweet study of Romans 8, we come again to the little word “**therefore**,” this time in **verse 12**. This is a clue that Paul is now moving from **instruction** to **exhortation**; from what God has done for us to what is expected from us. Then in **Verses 12-17** we learned about **The Family Of God**. Today we are going to see how important it is to **Hang On To Hope** in **verses 18-25**.

In the English language the word **hope** is rather an anemic, weak word. Sometimes when we say, “I hope something happens,” we’re not too certain it will happen. For instance, you may say, “Well I really hope I get a promotion next year,” or, “I hope my blood test comes back OK,” (you’re not real sure) or you’ll say, “I hope the Denver Broncos win.” (And we’re really not too sure about that) But in the Bible, the word **hope** has a different meaning. It is a word of **dynamic certainty**. But for sure, Christians are ones who ought to have a lot of hope.

Let’s look at **Romans 8:18**: Paul writes, “**For I consider**”. The Greek word translated “**consider**” means a “**firm conviction reached by rational thought on the basis of the Gospel**”, that is where we get our word logic, it means something he has mathematically figured out that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.” That’s the thesis of the message today. **Verse 18** of our text reminds us of one of the most fundamental truths of the Christian life. That truth is this: we are not home yet!

This passage concerns the struggle that is going on in and around all of us this morning. **Sufferings** include all suffering that has come as a result of the fall. All pain (physical, mental and emotional), sickness, disappointment, unemployment, poverty, frustration, etc. All that we suffer until Christ comes again.

We are going to look at the first two examples of HOPE in this section of Scripture. First, we see....

I. THE EXAMPLE THAT – CREATION GROANS FOR THE HOPE OF FUTURE RENEWAL VS. 18-22

The word “**groan/groaneth**” in **verse 22** means “**to sigh**”. It has the idea of one groaning under a burden. Now let’s learn what the Bible is saying about the future of creation. First of all,

1. **Nature has been frustrated since the curse of sin**
Genesis 3:17-19
 - (1) Man’s sin is responsible for natural disease
 - (2) Man’s sin is also responsible for natural disasters
 - (3) Man’s sin is responsible for natural decay.

The whole of creation is groaning. If climate change is a fact and I am not sure, it is directly related to the fall of man in **Genesis 3:17-19**, when God put a curse of this earth. When the earth groans, is it talking about earthquakes or volcanic eruptions? Creation is groaning. But you know what? It’s not a groan of death. It is a groan of something to come. But the second thing, and this is what people don’t understand,

2. **Nature is going to be re-born in the future.**

The world of nature is literally going to be rejuvenated, reborn, renovated, revived in the future. There’s going to be a new Heaven and a new Earth as we read in **Revelations 21:1, 2 Peter 3:10-13**. Here’s the second example of hope, which is us,

II. THE EXAMPLE OF - CHRISTIANS GROAN FOR THE HOPE OF FULL REDEMPTION VS. 23-25

So not only does **nature groan environmentally**, but we **groan internally**. Now look at this **verse -23**. Our bodies themselves are going to be redeemed.

1. Redemption begins when you receive Jesus
 - (1) **The Holy Spirit is our first fruit of a full harvest**
 - (2) **The Holy Spirit is our deposit for a full payment**
2. Redemption is completed at the return of Jesus
 - (1) **The bodies of dead Christians will be raised**
 - (2) **The bodies of living Christians will be changed**

That’s why **Titus** writes, “**Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.**” (2:13). **V-25** counsels us to wait patiently for our blessed hope.

The redemption of the body (**Rom. 8:23**) obviously has not yet occurred, but it is hoped for and eagerly anticipated with steadfast endurance in present sufferings (**v. 18**).