



MESSAGE/SERIES:

“A New Hope in the Present Darkness”

DATE: March 22, 2020

SCRIPTURE FOR THIS WEEK:

(These verses will help you understand themes within as you read our core text as scripture proves scripture)

Romans 8:15-28, Galatians 4:1-7, Romans 8:9-14, 1 Corinthians 3:16-23, 1 Corinthians 6:17-20, 1 John 4:18, Ephesians 2:1,5, Romans 2:15, 9:1, John 1:12, Hebrews 6:16-20, Galatians 3:29, Hebrews 13:5, 2 Thessalonians 1:10, 1 John 3:2, Romans 7:14-25

OPENING SCRIPTURE:

[ROMANS 8:16-28]

15 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but **you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!”**

16 **The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,**

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.**

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.

The Holy Bible: English Standard Version (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Ro 8:16–28.

BACKGROUND & OTHER STUDY HELPS:

[JONATHAN EDWARDS on Doctrine of Adoption] “Adoption brings Christians into a *more privileged relationship with God than was originally available to sinless creatures*. Edwards expands this observation in “Miscellanies” no. 1093, and elevates the privilege of adoption above justification. Adoption is “among the benefits that are the reward of the righteousness that appertains to the believer, even the righteousness of Christ, which is reckoned to him in his justification.” Justification “is a sentence passed by God as judge of the law” resulting in condemnation or eternal life without requiring adoption. Elect angels are not, and sinless Adam would not have been, adopted into God’s family by virtue of sustained righteousness. Adoption is a privilege belonging to the redeemed “by virtue of their special union with the only-begotten Son of God, which is the privilege they are received to in adoption” (*WJE* 20:480–81).”

Dave Schutter, “Adoption (Doctrine),” ed. Harry S. Stout, *The Jonathan Edwards Encyclopedia* (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2017), 3.

[TWO WITNESSES] Historical context: Under Israelite law witnesses were obligated to act/testify if they saw a crime being committed. A witness is there for one purpose to testify to the truth of the matter.

“Two or three witnesses are needed for a conviction, not just one (Num. 35:30; Deut. 17:6; Deut. 19:15; 1 Tim. 5:19); by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be confirmed (Matt. 18:16); the testimony of two men is true (John 8:17); every word is to be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses (2 Cor. 13:1); one who violates the law of Moses dies on the evidence of two or three witnesses (Heb. 10:28); a witness must testify (Lev. 5:1); a faithful witness will not lie (Prov. 14:5)”

A. Colin Day, *Collins Thesaurus of the Bible* (Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software, 2009).

The Spirit and the conscience or the inner man are the two witnesses of salvation. Our conscience

Why Do We Have HOPE in this Present Evil World?

OUTLINE:

I. NEW HOPE THROUGH ADOPTION (V15-17)

In a world that comes at you in every way, it is not what you know it is who you know that gets you through. Even greater still is the family connection that we have with God. The doctrine of Adoption is critical to who we truly are. If you have been regenerated by the Spirit and have surrendered to His call you belong to the King and are a King's kid.

- (v15) “You have received **the Spirit of Adoption**”
 - *Through the Spirit Regenerating the Heart/Spirit of man*
 - *An Intimate individual call*
 - *The Spirit has changed your identity in Heavens Family court and you now have a new last name because you have a new Father*

- (v15) “by whom we call out **Abba! Father!**” (daddy)
 - *An Intimate relationship with God through Jesus*
 - *Where he hear and responds to your prayers with joy*

- *Where we understand His word therefore He speaks back to us through His word*

- (v16) "the Spirit himself **bears witness with our spirit** that we are children of God"
 - *The witness of the Conscience or regenerated Spirit of man/Inner man bears witness of the new standing in the family of God*
 - *The Spirit of God also bears witness and reveals his verdict the same way as our inner man feels it...*
 - *New Joy*
 - *New Peace*
 - *Peace with God= positional/eternal*
 - *Peace of God= through daily repentant life*
 - *New direction and desire that was not there previously*
 - *New faith in God and His word*
 - *New Hope of things that are now and will be because of Jesus*

- (v17) "If Children, then heirs- heirs with God and fellow heirs with Christ..."
 - *Children are watched over and cared for in this life (His Kingdom is & is yet to come)*
 - *Heirs to a King who Owns it all*
 - *Children are automatically **heirs to heaven**/the promised land (the new Jerusalem)*
 - *Heirs if eternal life*
 - *Heirs of a sinless life upon glorification (sin powerless & absent from our lives)*
 - *Heirs of intimacy with God now and eternally (never leave us nor forsake us)*
 - *Unlike earthly fathers HE WILL NEVER ever leave us nor forsake us (Hebrews 13:5)*

- (v17) "...provided we **suffer with him** in order that we may also be glorified with him."
 - *Suffering is part of our Christian/ regenerate life*
 - *Suffering is a means by which we are purified*
 - *Suffering is a means by which we grow in knowledge and understanding and love*
 - *Suffering is a means by which we grow closer to Him (necessity)*

[Interactive Application]

1. Describe Hope from the perspective of our Adoption into the family of God:

2. How does our position in the family of God change our view of sickness and death?

3. How can you describe the term Abba Father being understood and used in your personal prayer life (intimacy with God)?

4. Can you see the closeness with the Lord growing in this current world crisis or fading away?

II. NEW HOPE THROUGH CURRENT SUFFERING (V18-25)

In a world that is dark and where suffering is necessary for the sanctification and the end result of glorification we must understand the big picture to grow in the Hope of Christ...

- (v18) “For I consider that the **sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory** that is to be revealed to us.”
 - *When we think about all of the current suffering in comparison to the day that Jesus returns I Hope and I am overjoyed*
 - *This current sickness around us or even in our own homes is difficult and we don't understand what is next, but there is a day coming that makes me smile and be reminded of the promises that He is coming back*
- (v19) “**Creation waits with eager longing** for the revealing of the sons of God”
 - *All of creation is hampered and vexed by sin and the fall, unable to do what God created it to do*
 - *All creatures are affected by the fall*

- *All creatures will be affected by His coming again as all creation will be renewed*
- (v20) “Creation was **subjected to futility**, not willingly...”
 - *Futility= emptiness and unable to function as once designed*
 - *Unable to glorify God fully because of the fall*
 - *Man was punished and all of creation was also affected in a domino affect*
- (v20-21) “...in hope... 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.”
 - *The new heaven and the earth will be free from sin as well as man*
 - *This will occur because man has been glorified*
- (v22) “...the whole **creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth** until now”
 - *“Groanings”= deep sigh and pain over the current state*
 - *This world is not right and will not be right until Jesus returns*
 - *This world will continue to drift further and further from God’s created order and design*
 - *The groaning of creation is seen in the earthquakes and natural disasters around us*
 - *The groanings of creation is seen through deformity and sickness that leads to death in the animal and plant kingdom*
 - *The birth of the kingdom of God is in process but it is not hear yet (Already and not yet doctrine)*
 - *Much pain comes with birth but when the baby, the purified and glorified body of Christ appears the suffering will all be worth it*
- (v23) “ 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...”
 - *The redeemed people of God groan with the pains of sin in the world and in us as a mother preparing for birth*
 - *1 Cor 13:6*
- (v24) “For **in this hope we were saved**. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees?”
 - *Hope is the joyful expectation of things promised and that we know will come (Christian hope)*
 - *When we surrendered our lives to Christ knowing (by the revelation of the Holy Spirit)*

- *that Christ had done all it takes to be promised eternity and full payment for sin*
 - *We began to Hope (expect) Jesus to return and consummate what He started... Glorifying His elect people and creation*
- (v25) “But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it **with patience.**”
 - *Hope with a patient heart as the Lord is faithful and true in what He has said*
 - *In Coming Judgement*
 - *In coming glorification*
 - *2 Peter 3:9-14*

[Interactive Application]

1. Describe your thought process in reflection of (v18): (Reflect Hope or Horror)

2. Describe 5 ways you see creation groaning:

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____
- e. _____

3. Describe the groanings in your own life:

4. Use the Birth Pangs Analogy to present the answer to why God allows evil in the world:

III. NEW HOPE THROUGH NEW HELPER (V26-27)

In the meanwhile God has given us His holy Spirit as these birth pains cause us much grief and suffering and even confusion...

- (v26) **“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.**
 - **Our “weakness”= our current fallen and fragile state**
 - *Not understanding and failing God everyday*
 - *Noetic effects of sin causes us to be*
 - *Pray selfishly*
 - *Pray aimlessly (just guessing not knowing His will in the matter)*
 - *The Spirit “Intercedes” for us= He carries the prayer need to the throne of the Father for us*
 - *With agony over the mess we are in*
 - *With words that cannot be expressed in our language (example: English many times cannot express with the same clarity what is said in Greek)*
 - *With “Groanings too deep for words”=*
 - *With the understanding of God being God*
 - *With words that cannot be expressed in our language (example: English many times cannot express with the same clarity what is said in Greek)*
 - (v27) **“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.”**
 - *The Spirit of God knows our heart and knows the heart and will of God being God*
 - *Therefore He changes us through prayer (Prayer doesn’t change God because His plan and will is perfect)*
 - *Prayer changes us and helps us to know the will of God and His character better as we experience the birth pains of the Kingdom of God*
 - (v28) **“And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.”**
 - *Those who God calls will be safe in the Storm because His plan is perfect*
 - *Those who God calls will have Hope in the present Darkness*
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[Interactive Application]

1. Describe our weaknesses in common language that we can share with others about the struggles even believers have in our prayer life:

2. What Hope do we have in knowing that the Spirit is our intercessor and how does this change your prayer life?

3. Write out what Romans 8:28 means to you in this time of Crisis after studying This text today:

-----Message from Pastor Michael-----

Church,

I know that these last few weeks have caused much anxiety in the world and in the hearts of most every person, but as a child of God I know he is at work in all of this. In sickness He is there. In persecution and trial He is there. In times of doubt, He is there. In times of change, He is there and stays the same yesterday today and forever! Know this week that no matter what comes your way Jesus is coming back and Jesus is with us now through His Spirit that dwells in our hearts. Let not your heart be troubled believe in Jesus and he is taking us home!

Love in Christ,
Pastor Michael

