

SERMON NOTES

Unashamed
April 27, 2008

“Heaven’s Hope”
Romans 8:18-27

Introduction

Following Jesus is not complex. It can be difficult though, as we are called to daily carry our cross and endure hardship. What provides us with motivation when following Jesus becomes difficult?

Interpretation

Application

Going Deeper

1. According to Paul, what positive spiritual outcome is provided by suffering? (Romans 5:3, 2 Corinthians 1:6, 2 Corinthians 12:7-10)
2. When compared with Paul, is your view on the spiritual value of suffering the same, similar or different? What about when compared with James? (James 1:2-4)
3. How would you like to grow in your understanding of the value of suffering?
4. What does Paul explain about the cause and effect of groaning in each of the following groups?
 - Creation groans (Romans 8:18-22)
 - Believers groan (Romans 8:23-25)
 - The Holy Spirit groans (Romans 8:25-27)
5. Are you, or is someone you love, presently suffering with an illness or disease? If so, what role has the hope of the redemption of our bodies played in your encouragement and your ability to wait patiently? (Romans 8:23-25, 2 Corinthians 5:1-3)
6. Describe a time when you experienced the Spirit's helpful groaning in prayer during a time of weakness?
7. According to Paul, how is prayer a divine rather than human work? (Romans 8:27)

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