

A.L.I.V.E. Bible Study
Date: September 1, 2021
Romans 8:18-30

1. What does his Paul consider about “our present sufferings,” according to verse 18?
 - a. They really stink.
 - b. I hope it will all be worth it, but I don’t see how it can be.
 - c. They are not worthy to be compared with the glory that will be revealed in us.

2. What does it mean that “creation waits in eager expectation…” and “creation was subjected to frustration…” and “creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth…” in verses 19-20?
 - a. It is not just Paul (or us) who suffers, but all of creation.
 - b. There is something about our salvation that brings hope to the entire creation and made all of creation long for our re-birth.
 - c. We are not alone in our longing for a day without pain, but our salvation (and the work of Christ that brought it) signals hope to all creation for the coming glory and every act of obedience, which displays the image of God and brings His kingdom to earth signals a ray of hope in the eternal timeline (despite the momentary suffering that we might feel in the midst of it).

3. Are you ever tempted to lose heart in the midst of the suffer? Even question whether something better is really coming? Yes_____ No_____ What do you do in those moments? _____

4. What does verse 23 tell us that we have that is part of the change that is coming? _____

5. What do verses 24-25 tell us about hope? _____

6. Why, according to verses 26-27, does the Spirit sometimes need to intercede for us? _____

7. In this context, does this mean some sort of exciting and ecstatic experience? What would it look like for the Spirit to intercede when all we can do is groan in suffering without knowing what to pray? _____

8. Why is it important that we understand that it is in this context that we find verse 28? _____

9. What is the hope that is given in verse 28?
 - a. Nothing bad will happen to us.
 - b. Everything that happens to us is really good, even if it feels bad.
 - c. God can work even our present situation for our good.
 - d. When we see the bigger picture, we can see how God might work things that are evil for his ultimate good and ours (see verse 18 and Genesis 50:20).

10. What, according to verse 29, is God’s purpose for us that he intended since before time? _____
_____What does this tell us about how God might be using the suffering of this world for our good?
_____How are you being conformed to the likeness of his Son? _____