

ROMANS

THE PROMISE OF
RIGHTEOUSNESS



SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

UNWORTHY SUFFERINGS

ROMANS 8:18-25

JAN. 25, 2015

TAKEAWAYS

Write out your one-sentence takeaways. Consider writing these on a notecard and putting it on your mirror, desk, or car dashboard.

What to remember:

What to put off/put on:

What to share with someone:

NEXT STEPS

Here are some next steps to walk in this truth this week. Don't feel constrained to these but feel free to use them.

- Memorize Romans 8:18 this week.
- Ask a friend or church member how you can pray for them this week as they endure hardship. Pray for them each day.
- Read Romans 8 again to saturate your heart in the gospel.
- If you're not a church member, pray about taking that step so we can grow and groan together over the long-haul.

HOW TO PRAY

Pray over the praises and requests of those around you but here are some additional ways to pray into our passage this week.

- Confess any ways you've over-valued the things of this world and under-valued the things of God.
- Praise God for the promises of full redemption, eternal life with God, a new resurrected body, and a new earth to live in forever.
- Thank God for promising to sustain us in our suffering and for giving us the body of Christ so we can groan together.
- Ask God for eyes to see your suffering in light of biblical truth about God's help now and eternal glory to come.
- Pray that you would wait for the end of groaning with patience and hope.

APPLICATION AND DISCUSSION

These questions focus on the sermon text and message. We've highlighted key ones but use however many your group needs.

- 1. How do you in faith look to our future glory in such a way that it sustains you in present suffering? How is that glory "worth it"?**
2. What are ways we live as if this life is all that matters or where we undervalue eternal life? How might those things cause us to focus on the things of this earth rather than the things of God?
- 3. What are some of the lies we're tempted to believe when we face suffering (ex: suffering means God is mad at me, or, I'm promised immediate relief from hardship)? What are the dangers inherent in those lies?**
4. Discuss how you might apply these two statements to your life when groaning, longing, or suffering:
"Hard is hard; hard is not bad."
"Take the long-view."
- 5. We are to be in this together, over the long-haul? How can we cultivate a community that suffers and groans together and does so for the long-haul?**
- 6. This passage seems to speak about physical, emotional, and spiritual longing and groaning. What are some of the groanings you're suffering with right now or longings unfulfilled that the group can pray with you about (whether physical, emotional, relational, or spiritual)?**
7. How can you wait for this full redemption with both patience and a hopeful eagerness? How might you go too far in one area and neglect the other?

FOR FURTHER STUDY

For those wanting to study some of the key ideas in more detail here are some cross-references and resources.

- **Suffering and glory:** Luke 9:23; Rom. 5:1-3; 2 Cor. 4:17-18; 2 Tim. 3:12; 1 Pet. 1:5-6; 4:13; Jas. 1:2-4.
- **Spirit as a guarantee & first fruits:** Rom. 11:16; Eph. 1:13-14; 1 Cor. 15:20; 2 Cor. 1:22; 5:5.
- **New earth:** Is. 25:6-9; 65:17; 66:22; Acts 3:21; 2 Pet. 3:13; Rev. 21:1-5; 21:22-22:1-5.
- **Groaning or travailing:** 2 Cor. 5:2, 4; Matt 24:8; Mark 13:8; John 16:20-22.