

Apply The Word

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EIGHT^{ON} VIII
GOSPEL HOPE from ROMANS 8

Message Info

Title:

Hope for Glory

Speaker:

Peter Privitera

Date:

April 17, 2022

Scriptures:

Romans 8:18-25

Theme: Wait patiently in hope until the revealing of incomparable glory.

Introduction: We are used to dramatic product reveals: like when a tech company unveils their latest, greatest gadget. Great energy and drama are invested into the presentation of the device, including promises of its revolutionary potential. But those kinds of revelations pale in comparison to the greatest reveal event in the history of the world: the resurrection of Jesus Christ. And because of the revelation of Jesus' resurrection, we also look forward to a great revelation to come.

Two horizons are in view in this passage:

1. The sufferings of this present time

To be human in this age is to suffer. Suffering surrounds us, and it touches all of our lives.

But when Paul writes of suffering here, he is not focused on human suffering. His focus is the sub-human: the rest of creation. Creation itself suffers, and longs for redemption.

Creation itself must wait for relief; and Paul personifies it here to picture it longing eagerly. It is groaning, enduring the trials of the Fall.

Creation suffers because Adam fell (Gen 3:17-19). It has been subjected to futility.

Nothing works the way it's supposed to, and we all feel it.

Why is the suffering of creation emphasized here? Because the suffering that we face is part of something much larger, as is its solution.

2. The glory to be revealed

Paul then makes a surprising comparison: present sufferings are not even to be compared to the glory to be revealed.

His statement may strike us as trite. It may almost seem like he's downplaying or minimizing the difficulties we face in life.

However, that clearly is not the case. Instead, he's saying: when you see you the glory to come, your immediate, whole-hearted reaction will be, "It was worth it."

What is this glory? It is revealed to us and *in us*. It will be seen in our glorified bodies, which itself is a glory derived from Christ. It is the glory of the true ruler over all things, a glory which he gives to us as his people.

Questions:

1. How do you experience the futility of creation?
2. How are you having to wait patiently in hope? How are you doing in your waiting?
3. What glory awaits you?