

“Hope for Future Glory”
A Study of the Book of Romans
Pastor Tim Allen

Key Truth: Though we suffer now, we wait patiently for the glory of a new, future creation with God.

In the way Paul teaches the Corinthians (2 Corinthians 4:16-18) that the “eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison” in the future is infinitely better than our “light, momentary affliction” now – the same is true for the Roman Christians. He says in verse 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” (v. 18). For Paul, and hopefully for us, though we do suffer in this world, nothing that we can ever or will ever experience in this life can even compare to the glory that we’ll enjoy in the life to come. This glory is in the future, and even though we suffer now, we’ll experience never-ending joy in the future with our Lord.

DISCUSS

Read **Romans 8:18-25** and discuss with the group a statement or concept that stood out to you or impacted you in the sermon entitled **“Hope for Future Glory”**

DIG IN

1. The Believers’ Glory (Romans 8:18-19)

Give some examples of the many ways we will be glorified in the future. Why will these things be glory for us (see Matthew 25:21)?

Why is it important that, not only will glory be revealed to (or in) us, but that the *sons of God* will also be revealed (v. 19)? Who are these *sons of God*?

2. Creation’s Glory (Romans 8:20-22)

In what ways does the created world “groan” in its bondage to corruption (v. 21)?

What do you think it will look like for creation to be set free from its bondage (v. 21)?

In what ways will the New Creation (see Revelation 21:1-7) be glorified along with the children of God? How will this glorify God, the Creator?

3. The Believers’ Hope (Romans 8:23-25)

What does it mean that we have “the firstfruits of the Spirit” (v. 23)? Does this mean we don’t yet fully have the Holy Spirit? Why or why not?

Why is hope an essential characteristic of our Christian life now? What does having “hope for what we do not see” (v. 25) look like now?

Describe the ways the Holy Spirit grows endurance in us. What are some practical examples of this in your life?

DO

What lessons do you learn from these verses that you will take with you throughout the coming week?