

WHEN IN ROME VIII

HOPE

ROMANS 8:18-25

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GRACE
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Perspective + Knowledge + Patience

Romans 8:18-25

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God.²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.²² For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.²³ And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees?²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Elements of hope (Staying on point in suffering)

- Perspective: It came to pass, not “it came to stay” – 8:18
For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.
 - Not that suffering doesn’t matter.
 - Not that suffering is illusory.
 - Rather, present suffering is overshadowed by a greater future glory.
 - The “Now” is temporary; the “Will be” is eternal. Suffering may be now, but it won’t stay. The “Will be” is that we will be with the Lord, and that will never pass away. Don’t let the “Now” cloud hope of the “Will be.” What will be is greater than what (currently) is.

2 Corinthians 4:17-18

For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, ¹⁸ as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

- Knowledge: The Curse & the future Curse Reverse – 8:19-23 *For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. ²³ And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.*
 - What should I expect in life?
 - Broken people.
 - Broken world.
 - The inability of either one to give lasting hope.
 - God working it all together for good – 8:28 *And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.*
 - Patience – 8:24-25 *For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.*

Option 1: Shock and despair.

“Men are so simple of mind, and so much dominated by their immediate needs, that a deceitful man will always find plenty who are ready to be deceived.” – Niccolò Machiavelli

Option 2: Harden your heart.

Option 3: Hope while hurting.

Leon Morris: “The great thing is that this is not meaningless pain.”¹

¹ Leon Morris, *The Epistle to the Romans*, The Pillar New Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI; Leicester, England: W.B. Eerdmans; InterVarsity Press, 1988), 318–319.