

Sermon Based Discussion (December 5, 2010)
Sermon Series: Romans: The Power of God to Save

"Hope" (Romans 8:18-39)
SERMON NOTES

INTO THE BIBLE. Read Romans 8:18:39

1. What is Paul's assertion in verse 18, and why is it significant?
2. How should we look at the pain and suffering in this world based upon verse 18 and following?

Follow-up: You can read about some of Paul's own suffering in 2 Corinthians 11:21b-29. Does learning that Paul was well acquainted with pain affect how we view his faith in God's hope?
3. How does the promise in verses 28-30 transform how we view suffering and hope?
4. What does Paul want to get across to us in verses 31-39?

We might do well to remember that no one suffers innocently, for we are all worthy of judgment under God. Paul wrote earlier in this letter "...but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:6)

GOING DEEPER (Sharing/Application)

5. How might the things listed in verses 31-39 make someone wonder if God still loves us?
6. What do you think about the idea that this world and we ourselves groan inwardly for something better in life?
7. How does believing in the gospel of Jesus fit into the offer of hope and glory?
8. The passage says that there are times we are so upset, we don't even know what to pray for (v.26). What specific issue(s) are you facing that you would like the Holy Spirit and others to pray for?

CHANGING YOUR MIND

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? (Romans 8:31-32, ESV)