

Resurrection: Our Context for Life

He is Risen!

Jesus' resurrection _____ the context of our life. (v. 18)

Jesus' resurrection _____ the whole creation. (vv. 19-22)

Jesus' resurrection _____ the anticipation of our resurrection. (v. 23)

Romans 8:18-23

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.

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 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. (ESV)

Resurrection: Our Context for Life

April 4, 2021

Holy Week

Open: What were some of the joys (or perhaps challenges!) of your Easter celebration this year?

Read: Romans 8:18-25

Discuss:

1. Paul contrasts present suffering with future glory (v. 18). What is Paul's purpose in making this contrast? What do you think Paul has in mind when he speaks of the "glory that is to be revealed to us" (v. 18)? What effect does it have on you when you focus on our eternal life?
2. What truths does Paul observe about creation in verses 19-22? Paul draws a parallel between creation groaning and the life of believers. How is this comparison intended to be an encouragement to believers?
3. Verse 19 alludes to the "revealing of the sons of God." When do you think this will happen? What might Paul mean by the phrase "the freedom of the glory of the children of God" (v. 21)? How is this freedom a source of hope for you?
4. Creation is said to be "subjected to futility" (v. 20) and in "bondage to corruption" (v. 21). How does this condition show up in the created world? How have you personally experienced this?
5. What is the idea of "firstfruits" in the Bible? Why do you think Paul says we have the "firstfruits of the Spirit" (v. 23)? **Read Romans 8: 11, 15.** According to these verses, how is the Spirit connected to our adoption as sons and the redemption of our bodies?
6. Throughout this passage, eager anticipation is described (vv. 19, 22, 23). What do we learn about "hope" from verses 24-25? How is hope different from wishful thinking? Why might God have chosen to cause us to wait for our full redemption rather than make it immediate?

Apply: What might we do to deepen our longing for the "glory that is to be revealed to us"?

Pray: Ask God to increase our anticipation of the new life ahead of us. Pray that many in our community will long for the freedom and hope available to them in Christ.

Romans 8:18-25

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. 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 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. 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. (ESV)