

May 17-18, 2025

Title: Romans: The Home of Christ and the Spirit, Pt 3: “Groaning for God’s Good Purpose” – Romans 8:18-30

Big Idea: Groan for God’s good purpose with hope and help.

Read Romans 8:18-30

What part of the sermon or Romans 8:18-30 resonated most deeply with you, and why?

Can you share a time when a difficult season made you question or cling more tightly to God’s goodness?

1. Suffering WITH Jesus leads to glory WITH Jesus – Romans 8:18

Read Romans 8:18. What does Paul mean when he says the sufferings of this present time aren’t worth comparing to the coming glory?

Pastor Greg shared vulnerably about his wife Tarah’s suffering. What do their experiences teach us about trusting God in long-term pain and unanswered prayer?

2. Creation GROANS with HOPE – Romans 8:19-22

Romans 8:19-22 talks about “groaning.” What does it mean for creation to groan, and how does that give us perspective on suffering in the world?

How is the groaning of creation like the groaning of childbirth?

3. Believers in Jesus GROAN with HOPE – Romans 8:23-25

In Romans 8:23-25, how are believers called to “groan” as they wait? What is this experience like? What are we waiting for?

4. Believers in Jesus GROAN with HELP – Romans 8:26-27

Romans 8:26-27 describes the Spirit interceding for us with “groanings too deep for words.” Have you ever experienced this kind of prayer? What does this say about God’s care for us in our confusion?

How can this group support one another in holding onto hope, even in the midst of suffering?

5. Believers in Jesus GROAN for God’s GOOD PURPOSE – Romans 8:28-30

Romans 8:28 is often quoted. How does understanding it in the full context of Romans 8:18-30 change or deepen its meaning?

The sermon talked about not placing our hope in our circumstances but in Christ's presence, power, and purposes. Where are you tempted to place your hope right now?

Based on Romans 8:29, what is God's good purpose for your life? How does this give perspective on suffering and the promise of Romans 8:28.

What would it look like for you to "groan for God's good purpose" this week?

Is there someone in your life who is struggling that you could encourage with a truth from Romans 8:18-30?

"Next Step" Takeaways – Discuss and pray through the following:

- With God:
 - Confess your weakness and confusion to God. Ask the Holy Spirit to intercede for you in your trials with groanings too deep for words.
 - Ask God to fulfill His good purpose for your life and conform you to the image of Jesus.
- With Others:
 - Memorize Romans 8:26-30 with another believer this week, adding one verse per day. Write out a prayer in response to each verse and share it with each other.
- On Mission:
 - Find a practical way to connect with your unbelieving friends, neighbors, or co-workers this week. When you do, ask how you can be praying for them, and share with them some of what you are learning from Romans 8.