



The Undiscovered Country

Romans 8:18-30

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Paul's Main Point: There is no comparison (verse 18)

1. Do you think most people see things as “the glass is half empty” or “the glass is half full”? Or, “You mean there’s a glass?”
2. What about you? Are you a half empty or half full person? Do you ever wonder if you have a glass?
3. Why does it seem easy for us to make the comparison that Paul says does not exist?
4. Put another way, do you ever find yourself feeling like the suffering of today is greater than what God has for us in Jesus?

Our present suffering (verses 19-25)

1. How does Paul describe what creation is going through?
2. Why is creation groaning?
3. Will creation’s suffering last forever?
4. Can you relate to what creation is going through?
5. In the midst of our suffering, what hope does Paul offer us?

Our future glory (verses 26-30)

1. How does the Spirit help us in our weakness and suffering?
2. In verse 28, what is it that Paul says “we know”?
3. Notice that verse 28 begins, “And we know...” not, “we really hope so.” What difference can Paul’s certainty here make in your life?
4. Verses 29 and 30 help us to understand that God’s perspective and authority over suffering is completely sovereign and totally beyond ours. How might knowing these truths be helpful to you and/or others you know who are going through suffering?

Processing Paul’s teaching...

Answer the following by sharing the reasons for your answer (perspective).

1. When we suffer we must assume that God has abandoned us or is punishing us: True False
2. When we confess our fears and doubts and ask God for strength He will help us: True False
3. When we suffer we know that God is not listening to our prayers: True False
4. When we suffer we should continue praying even if we don’t know what to say or how to say it: True False
5. When we suffer unreasonably it is okay to give up: True False
6. When we trust God in our weakness He will supply His strength to us: True False

TAKE HOME QUESTIONS: If you had to pick just one insight from this study that speaks specifically to you, what would it be? Why? How do you plan to respond to it this week? Who do you know who needs to hear what was helpful for you in this study? When will you share this encouragement with them?