


Groaning to Glory

6/11/23 | Week 2 | What do you meme?

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// Introduction

- Is there somebody in your life who is a repeat offender of selective hearing? You know, where they hear what they want to hear because they are only half listening? I've literally said this to my wife just trying to be real with her. She'll be going on and on explain where each of my five children are going - when and where they get picked up and I'm like nodding my head but kinda thinking about a guitar riff that I just loved that I was just listening to. I'll come out of my daze and be like... "Honey ..um... could you start this whole conversation over again because I didn't hear a word you said. I'm sorry."
- Hey - it's good to be honest right?
 - Or even only hearing what they think you are saying, not what you are saying because they are thinking of what they are going to say while you are speaking?
- Maybe that's you, maybe that's the person you are sitting next to (stop nudging them, we see you) -
- As we continue in this series, we are exploring commonly misunderstood and misused scriptures. We need to make sure we are not being selective readers of the Bible.
- Last week we talked about how it is important that we pay attention to the context of verses and not view them as standalone elements of the Bible.
- QUICK RECAP
- We said that...  **God's prosperity is more than I can touch.**
- **Jeremiah 29:11 is not a promise that you'll be perfectly satisfied here on earth - free of worry and trouble - but rather that God Himself will fulfill you as get to know Him more and more and ultimately you'll find that "hope and a future" when you enter HEAVEN.**
- **"You Are My Reward"** A few months ago I asked Pastor Dave and Pastor Andrew to join me on a Friday and write a song. I just had a concept and wanted their input bc I wanted it to be super rich in theology. Abraham is getting the promise that God is going to bless him and use him to create a new family of



people dedicated to Him. God says something beautiful - in the midst of all these blessings... family, livestock, wealth ... God says "I will be your great reward." God was telling Abraham then and He's telling us this month - don't forget I AM the great reward. The blessings don't get worshiped. The Blesser gets worshiped. The material things you pray for and sometimes God gives you - don't let them become idols in your life. Idols NEVER satisfy. Only Jesus satisfies.

Like we sang in that song "No one ever cared for me like Jesus!"



Then we said that ...

Jeremiah 29:12-14

You will call to me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you search for me with all your heart. I will be found by you—this is the Lord's declaration—“and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and places where I banished you”—this is the Lord's declaration. “I will restore you to the place from which I deported you.”

-  **Finding and knowing Jesus is the greatest joy in life! God is concerned about your holiness now because He is planing your happiness then. Jesus promises us a place with Him.** It's about HIS glory and being in HIS house and living according to HIS rules. "The chief goal of man is to know God and enjoy Him forever." There's a reason why that is etched in stone in many Seminaries around the world. It debunks the lie that God is here to just give you stuff and solve your problems. No. God is here to save you from your sin! God is here to forgive you and restore you - to bring you back to what HE intends your life to represent - a life of truth and honestly and integrity and genuine joy.
- Today, we are going to explore Romans 8:28. It's another verse that may be misconstrued at times or at least mis-applied.
 -  **Romans 8:28 (CSB)**
 - **²⁸ We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.**
 - Very familiar, famous oftentimes used to help people make sense of the difficulties of life. I've quoted it all my life - perhaps you have as well - lets dive into it today and really explore what is the Lord saying to us through this familiar and comforting verse. Keep in mind as we navigate our convo this morning that "CONTEXT IS KING" when it comes to understanding the true intentions of scripture and there can be some danger in taking individual versus out of context with no other scriptural basis to support them.



// God is Good All the Time

- God is good...(all the time)...and all the time...(God is good)
- It's important that we first establish the goodness of God before we move forward with the rest of today's message. Let's establish God's goodness and character with God's Word. Why? There are a lot of things you can place your trust in in life but only the Word of God should have supreme authority in your life. Remember what we said last week - in today's culture thousands of Christians are compromising truth based on cultural norms. They're adapting their beliefs and therefore lifestyle to the world around them instead of adapting their beliefs and lifestyle to the truth found in God's Word. **GOD'S WORD IS THE TRUTH** and the **FOUNDATION** for everything in your life!
- If you don't stand on God's Word you will fall for whatever satan uses to deceive you. This includes those of you who love certain authors and online preachers. You can be deceived if you listen to an eloquent, gifted communicator distort a scripture for 45 minutes if you don't read the scripture for yourself and ask the Holy Spirit to illuminate its intent and purpose. Reading the **WORD** is the **ONLY WAY** you will know "What Do You Meme, God?"
- So... what is the God's character and how does the Bible declare His goodness?
-  Psalm 103:8-10 (CSB)
The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in faithful love. ⁹ He will not always accuse us or be angry forever. ¹⁰ He has not dealt with us as our sins deserve or repaid us according to our iniquities.
- *Tell of a time that you experienced God's goodness.*
-  1 Corinthians 2:8-9 CSB
None of the rulers of this age knew this wisdom, because if they had known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹ But as it is written,

*What no eye has seen, no ear has heard,
and no human heart has conceived—
God has prepared these things for those who love him.*

- God has his glory in store for us! But we cannot see it yet, hear it, or even conceive it, but we know that God is working on a place for us as he works in us!
- Here's what this verse is not saying:
 - Just because something bad is happening now doesn't mean something good is going to happen because of it.
 - Karma isn't what God promises (that's Hindu theology)
 - **Funny - "When God closes a door, He opens a window"** You know what - I've crawled through a few windows in my life. It's no fun. That's a dumb statement. Lol "be encouraged brother. God is working on something for you that you'll have to work and wince and wiggle to get through!" Lol
 - But that doesn't mean that God isn't good.



// God is still working

- **Abraham and Isaac Story**
- **God already had a ram in the thicket while they were walking up the mountain - while Abraham was in the process of obedience, God had already come through for him!**
-  **God has two purposes in that plan: our good and His glory. Ultimately, He will make us like Jesus Christ! Best of all, God's plan is going to succeed! - Wiersbe, W.**
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- Just like we talked about last week - it's important that we look at the scripture in all of its context.
 -  Romans 8:18-30 CSB
 - **FROM GROANS TO GLORY**
For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is going to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation eagerly waits with anticipation for God's sons to be revealed. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility—not willingly, but because of him who subjected it—in the hope
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- **²¹ that the creation itself will also be set free from the bondage to decay into the glorious freedom of God's children. ²² For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together with labor pains until now. ²³ Not only that, but we ourselves who have the Spirit as the firstfruits—**
 - **we also groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ Now in this hope we were saved, but hope that is seen is not hope, because who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵ Now if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with patience.**
 - ²⁶ In the same way the Spirit also helps us in our weakness, because we do not know what to pray for as we should, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with inexpressible groanings. ²⁷ And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because he intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.
 - ²⁸ We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, so that he would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. ³⁰ And those he predestined, he also called; and those he called, he also justified; and those he justified, he also glorified.
- **God wants to bring you from a place of groaning into a place of Glory.**
 - Verse 18 says that our suffering is not worth comparing to the glory that will be revealed to us!
 - That does not mean that the Lord does not see our suffering, but he is saying that there is goodness in store for us found through him!
 - God sees your pain with the lost job.
 - God sees your pain with the relationship that came to an end.
 - God sees your pain with the dream that just - never - happened.
 - God sees your physical pain when the doctors have done their best but with little results.
 - God promises a home in Heaven with Him free of all that!

- YES GOD can heal now and yes I've seen it over and over and over. But the greatest miracle of all is the miracle of the heart - that He teaches us to trust in Him and be forgiven of our sins - our regrets - our failures. He removes all the PUNISHMENT, took the punishment on HIMSELF, died in our place "so that we could become the righteousness of God" We made us CHILDREN of GOD - brothers and sisters of JESUS! THAT is the greatest miracle! That is the greatest joy and THAT is the what the Bible is promising you! Freedom from the punishment of your sin! Rewards that belong to Jesus but are given to you and to me! WOW!!!!

Now out of this revelation comes a heart of gratitude -a life devoted to God our SAVIOR! Now, we can endure some difficult things because we see what Jesus our older brother endured for us!

-  **James 1:12**
Blessed is the one who endures trials, because when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.
- *JESUS, God's only son, not only endured the cross for you but He prays for you and sends His Spirit to give you strength so that you too can endure anything the devil throws your way!*
- -  **Romans 8:26–27 (CSB)**
"In the same way the Spirit also helps us in our weakness, because we do not know what to pray for as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us, with inexpressible groanings. ²⁷ And He who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God."
Jesus, God's Son, prays to the Father for YOU!

 // God has predestined goodness for those who follow Jesus.


-  **Romans 8:28–30 (CSB)**
 - ²⁸ We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those he

foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, so that he would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. ³⁰ And those he predestined, he also called; and those he called, he also justified; and those he justified, he also glorified.

◦  “to be conformed to the image of his Son”

One of the main ideas I try to teach from this pulpit often

- Let’s not get predestined confused with the idea that we have no choice here - what scripture is saying is that when we say “Yes” to Jesus, there is a destiny determined before us, before that moment, that we will spend eternity with Jesus!
- We know that God is good! And that God is working on all things that we may come to experience that goodness, where we who are called according to his purpose, will find that goodness for all time in his presence!
- We see in Romans 8 that all of creation has been groaning together - from the day sin entered the world, but we are reminded of this goodness. And it’s woven throughout all of scripture:

 **2 Peter 3:13 But based on his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.**

- If you would like to study more on the new heavens and new earth, we did a deep dive in to the book of Revelation and what the “end times” looks like - you can download a comprehensive PDF of my teaching on that by going to RockofGrace.org Click RESOURCES. SERMON NOTES then click the button “END TIMES STUDY”
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- Romans 8 continues to talk about our groaning to be adopted into the kingdom of God:

 **2 Corinthians 1:22 He has also put his seal on us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a down payment.**

- The Spirit of God within us conveys a message to us “HOLD ON! GOD IS MAKING ALL THINGS NEW!”
- He’s working in the background! TRUST HIM!

- Trust in the Lord with ALL your heart! Lean not on your own understanding but in all your ways acknowledge Him and HE will direct your paths!

The problem is that many Christians want God to direct their paths but they don't want to acknowledge Him in ALL their ways. They don't want Him to be Lord. They worship on their terms. It's about THEM being served. Them having what they want and them only taking, never giving. Sunday is simply an added cultural piece to their lives. They are not acknowledging JESUS in all that they do. Then they wonder why they're missing a sense of meaningfulness or meaning in life. If you only acknowledge God on Sundays then He isn't Lord, He is only a hobby, and Savior at best. He doesn't want to just be Savior. Jesus wants to be LORD and Savior. He's the ALL OR NOTHING type.

So when we give up and blame God when things don't go right it's often because we've misunderstood scripture or worse misunderstood God and His character. He IS GOOD all the time ... but... we do live in a fallen world. ...but ... God IS making all things new!!!!

The question is are you **A. Pursuing the well-being of the city you're in** - like we talked about last week - serving God by serving people - stewarding what you've been given wisely - the church you're in - are you serving - the community you're in - are you helping and speaking truth in love - the neighborhood you're in - do your neighbors know you? Have you had them over for dinner and befriended them? So A PURSING THE WELL-BEING OF THE CITY YOU'RE IN

B. EAGERLY AWAITING THE RETURN OF JESUS CHRIST.
BOTH ARE IMPORTANT AND BOTH ARE GIVEN TO US IN SCRIPTURE AS THE MINDSET WITH WHICH WE MUST LIVE.

- Jesus sees our groaning, he sees our challenges, your challenges, he wants you to know that when you give your life into His hands that he has goodness in store for you - a glory that we may never know here on earth, but for all eternity with him. Where there's a promise of a new heaven and a new earth full of righteousness Where you are worth more than you can understand to Him - where he put a down payment on your soul. Who else HAS PAID WITH THEIR LIFE a down payment on your soul?!
When we say yes to Jesus, our ailments of this world don't disappear, but we have a hope found in his glory. Some of them might. I do believe in healing and I'm told about healings all the time. But if I am not healed and if you are not healed, it does not change God's goodness or God's plan to restore all things!

Let us move from a place of groaning into a place of GLORY!

It's all about TRUST!

TRUST that GOD is making a way!

- **BAND UP - WAY-MAKER is played**
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- **2 CALLS TODAY**
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- **Salvation Altar Call**
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- **Invitation to trust your Father who knows what's best and wants what's best and does what's best.**