Sermon Notes
Good News Church
Romans - The Righteous Will Live by Faith
Chapter 8 (Part 2) – "Working All Things for Good"
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11-15-26

PRIMARY MESSAGE OF ROMANS
"The righteous will live by faith." – Romans 1:17

THEMES
CH. 1-3 Depravity, Justice, and Grace
CH. 4-5 Faith – Origins and Impact (O.T. Reflections > Abraham and Adam)
CH. 6-7 Living in Grace – motivation, frustration, and salvation
CH. 8 LAST WEEK - Living in the Power of the Spirit vs. the Lust of the Flesh
TODAY – God working ALL things for the good

ROMANS 8:17-28 SUMMARY:
God is weaving a beautiful tapestry that incorporates ALL things (including suffering) for our good and for His glory, and we can only be confident in God's promises to make sufferings work for our good because God is good, loving, and sovereign over all things. There is SO much in this world and in our lives that doesn't seem to make sense. Romans 8 gives us hope!

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE – ROMANS 8:17-28

TODAY'S KEY VERSE
"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." – Romans 8:28

LAST WEEK / REVIEW (wrapped up with Romans 8:14-16)
14 For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. 15 The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." 16 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

- **Q: How do you know you're saved?** A: LOVE FOR GOD

1. ADOPTION (Romans 8:17)
17 Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

What is Adoption?
A: Adoption is an act of God's free grace, whereby we are received into the number, and have a right to all the privileges, of the sons of God. – Westminster Shorter Catechism

The pathway to glory is the path of suffering.

- **It is a privilege to share in the sufferings of Jesus. We're all going to suffer in this life. We might as well suffer with and for Him.**

    - **Q: What are your sufferings?** Health, physical pain, emotional discouragement / depression, finances, parents, children, neighbors, marriage, singleness, etc.? **Commit them to Jesus for good and glory.**

- ***"Cross bearing proceeds crown wearing"*** - inspired by the hymn, "Must Jesus Bare the Cross Alone?" by Thomas Shepherd. (1665-1739)

2. Present Sufferings (Romans 8:18-21)

18 I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed
in us. 19 For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. 20 For the
creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected
it, in hope 21 that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the
freedom and glory of the children of God.

- The sin of Adam affected ALL of creation (dirt, sky, plants, animals, etc.)!

- **Like a patient in the ER waiting for a doctor to come in and bring relief from the excruciating pain** // yet this pain is incomparable to the relief (glory) we will receive!

3. Hope for Redemption (Romans 8:22-25)

22 We know that the whole creation has been **groaning** as in the pains of childbirth right up to the
present time. 23 Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, **groan** inwardly
as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. 24 For in this hope we
were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? 25 But if
we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

- *"If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world."* - C.S. Lewis

- **We wait and groan in HOPE. Without hope, we'd never make it,** but with THIS hope (that saves), we can persevere because the outcome of this hope is guaranteed and secure… our salvation, redemption, and restoration.

- God's big plan is not only to redeem and restore us, His children, but also all of creation. God's plan includes **the restoration of nouns** (persons, places, and things).

4. Praying Spirit

26 In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for,
but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through **wordless groans**. 27 And he who searches our hearts
knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the
will of God.

- This is such an amazing and comforting verse especially when we are in the midst of suffering.

- Have you ever experienced suffering that is so great you just don't even know how to pray or have the emotional or physical strength to even utter a prayer?

- In those moments and seasons, we can cling to this great promise of God that we need not fret, because when our weakness consumes us, God's Spirit helps us by praying for us.

- **Illustration:** Like one of those self-driving Teslas, God's Spirit takes over, and we can rest knowing that He's got it and He's got us.

5. All Things (Romans 8:28)

28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

- **Is there a greater promise in all of scripture?** God is weaving and working ALL THINGS (all of our circumstances – good, bad, ugly, big, and small) for the good of those who love him.
    - Do you love him?
    - Are you living for God's purposes and glory?
    - Is God sovereign?

10 Verses on God's Sovereignty

1. *"Only I can tell you what is going to happen even before it happens. Everything I plan will come to pass, for I do whatever I wish."* - Isaiah 46:10

2. *"I am the one who creates the light and makes the darkness. I am the one who sends good times and bad times. I, the Lord, am the one who does these things."* - Isaiah 45:7

3. *"Look now; I myself am He! There is no god other than me! I am the one who kills and gives life; I am the one who wounds and heals; no one delivers from my power."*
   - Deuteronomy 32:39

4. *"From eternity to eternity I am God. No one can oppose what I do. No one can reverse my actions."* - Isaiah 43:13

5. *"The Lord does whatever He pleases throughout all heaven and earth, and on the seas and in their depths."* - Psalm 135:6

6. *"In his heart, a man plans his ways, but the Lord determines his steps."* - Proverbs 16:9

7. *"We may throw the dice, but the Lord determines how they fall."* - Proverbs 16:33

8. "*I kept the rain from falling when you needed it most, ruining all of your crops. I sent rain on one town but withheld it from another. Rain fell on one field, while another field withered away."* - Amos 4:7

9. *"Anyone who hits a person hard enough to cause death must be put to death. But if it is an accident and God allows it to happen, I will appoint a place where the slayer can run for safety."* - Exodus 21:12-13

10. *"For everything comes from Him; everything exists by His power and is intended for His glory. To Him be glory evermore. Amen."* - Romans 11:36

CONCLUSION

In our sinful condition, we are finite creatures who have pitted ourselves against the infinite, holy God of the universe. We control very little in our lives. God controls everything.

The unbelievable reality is that, instead of leaving us all to die in our sins (of which we justly deserve), God has reached down "His righteous right Hand," rescued, adopted, and set us on a path such that He is working out all of the suffering in our lives (and in our world) for good and for glory.

And when you and I stumble and fall along the way, even such that we have given up and reached the end of our prayers, God's Spirit actively prays for us for everything in alignment with God's perfect will.

And all of this is made possible because of the perfect life, propitionary (substitionary) death, and victorious (sin and death conquering) resurrection of Jesus Christ, for you and for me.

When we receive, surrender to, and TRUST CHRIST, by faith, all of these truths are activated in our lives.

And THAT'S Good News!