

# TOGETHER WITH ONE VOICE

We Are Children of Future Glory  
May 17, 2015 - Pastor Derwin L. Gray

- **Open in prayer.**
- **Introduction.**
  - o In the first century Rome was the center of the world and it was filled with suffering, in its overcrowded urban environment. 90% of the population were slaves and the average life expectancy of a man was 36 years. Paul is writing to the multi-ethnic house churches in Rome. He's teaching them how suffering is a picture to the world of what a new kind of human looks like...one who places hope in the living God at the center of suffering.
- **Future glory gives us hope during our present suffering.**
- **Read and discuss Romans 8:18-19.**
- Discuss the following statements:
  - o *Anything of greatness requires hard work, discipline, sacrifice and a high level of pain tolerance.*  
Share an experience from your life where the above statement was lived out.
  - o *The future reward gives you purpose and power to suffer in the present...you can endure suffering.*  
What is your future reward in Christ?
  - o *A vision of the future transforms the way you live today...it transforms how you suffer today.*  
How do you approach suffering? According to this scripture, what does it say about your suffering?
- **Future glory means that even creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay.**
- **Read and discuss Romans 8:20-27.**
  - o In many third world countries suffering is like the air you breathe. All around the world, there is war, poverty, and sickness. If your hope is in anything other than in the resurrection of Jesus...your hope is misplaced.
    - According to this scripture, what's the connection between creation (the world) and you and me (Christ-followers)?
    - What other things or people are you challenged to place your hope in?
  - o C.S. Lewis realized there must be a standard of something or someone that is right. There's a God who sets the standard. There's a God who wants to make things right. There's a God who has suffered for you and me. Discuss the following statements regarding God and suffering:
    - *There's so much evil in the world.* If something is wrong, who determines what is right?
    - *When you say something is wrong you're saying you want justice.* Who is your justice?
  - o God is going to restore the world one day (new heavens and new earth). Meanwhile, He's left you and me to be a picture of His restoration. Discuss the following statements:
    - *The first Adam brought decay on the world.*
    - *The second Adam brings righteousness and healing to the world.*
  - o *According to this scripture, your reward is a glorified resurrected body in the new resurrected heavens and the new resurrected earth.* Why is this statement more meaningful to first-century Christians than to you and me?
  - o Discuss this statement, "*You'll never be stronger than when you recognize you're weak*"?
- o Your help is for God to be glorified in your life—not for you to be glorified.
  - Have you ever been at the place where you don't know what to pray for?
  - Are you at the place where you need "His strength to be made whole in your weakness"?
  - Stop and pray for folks in your group who are facing areas of suffering in their lives.
  - The greatest prize in life is knowing Jesus more.

- **Future glory gives us present assurance in God's transforming work in our lives.**
- **Read Romans 8:28-29.**
  - o God lives in the eternal now and sees your past, present and future. He has redeemed our past to provide power in our present so that we are conformed to the image of Jesus.
  - o What things in your life do you need to claim this promise?
  - o What does it look like for you to be conformed to the image of Christ?
- **Future glory compels us to appreciate the justifying work of the Messiah in the present.**
- **Read and discuss Romans 8:30.**
  - o God's righteousness is a gift to you. You don't have to achieve anything to receive His gift.
  - o Why is justification—Jesus paid for all of your sins, He took your place—such a hard truth to embrace?
  - o Discuss this statement, "When Jesus is your good enough, you find yourself doing things you could've never done".
  - o When God looks at you, how does He see you? How does that transform the way you look at yourself?
- **Future glory empowers us to see that our present suffering is a gift to inspire others.**
  - o Discuss the story of Maickel from the Boston Marathon video.
  - o Do you see your suffering as a gift to inspire other people?
  - o What are you going through right now that might inspire someone else?
  - o Why is it important not to suffer alone?
- **Soul-tattoo: Suffer with hope and inspire others through your suffering.**
- **Close in prayer.**