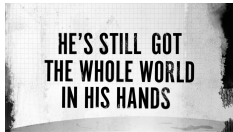


MARINERS CHURCH



Having Hope in Uncertain Times

7/11-12/2020

May your unfailing love be with us, Lord, even as we put our hope in you?
Psalms 33:22 (NIV)

We live with the tension of what we think we should feel and what we actually feel from day to day.

“Hope is the person or thing in which your expectations for the future are centered.”

Hopelessness is never a result of leaning our ladder on God.

I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. Romans 8:18 (NIV)

Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. Romans 8:23-24 (NIV)

Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set His seal of ownership on us, and put His Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come. 2 Corinthians 1:21-22 (NIV)

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 (NIV)

What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Romans 8:31-32 (NIV)

Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Romans 8:33-34 (NIV)



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Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. Romans 8:35, 37 (NIV)

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:37-39 (NIV)

For your LifeGroup discussion...

Name some things you've viewed or read this week that perpetuate the fantasy that we should always be "happy, happy, happy." Why is hard even for Christians to cope with disappointment and struggle?

Read Romans 8:18-27

What words and vivid images in these verses underscore the difficulties of our present time?

Explain why these difficulties don't compare with the "glory that will be revealed in us," as Paul says in vs. 18.

How can our "eager expectation" (v. 19) help us cope with our present problems?

How can the Holy Spirit's help encourage us? (vv. 26-27)

Read Romans 8: 28-39

In spite of the long list of troubles in vs. 35-36, why does Paul proclaim that we are "more than conquerors" (v. 37-39)?

Describe an area of your life you have a tendency to "lean your ladder" on. How can this passage help you transform your attitude and move your ladder to lean on God?

Choose one of these verses to write out, post and memorize this week to encourage you.

Use Psalm 33:20-22 as a closing prayer.