

## Faith In the Home: Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Romans 8:18-27, "Hope and Help for All of Us Together."

"For I consider that the sufferings of this present world are not worth comparing the glory that is being revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God." Those two verses in them of themselves are sermon, not to mention the rest of this chapter or Romans. Paul, the apostle who once made Christians suffer, before his own conversion, knew suffering. He was publicly flogged, stoned (attempted murder against him), and imprisoned all for the sake of sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He lost everything he had in the world for Jesus, and he did so willingly. Why? The promises of God. Paul believed that the promises of God waited for Him.

What's interesting is that Paul says that the entire creation waits for the Christians to be revealed, and that it groans for Christ. So, those feelings that you have that you are alone, or that the world is crumbling, or that your will cost you something, you are not alone. Paul suffered. You suffer. Maybe not directly for your faith, but you suffer in this world because the world is broken by sin.

What is interesting is that because the law is written on every person's heart (Romans 1), everyone can see that there is something wrong with the world. The difference is that Christians can see clearly the stains of sin and brokenness because God's Word has revealed it to us. Yet, despite everything that is wrong in the world, a three-day moment in time changed everything and gives us our hope. That hope of course is in Jesus Christ, who died on the cross, and in three days rose again. Now, He rules over all creation working all things to His glory and to our benefit.

Even though He sits on high He is with us through the Helper who lives in us. That of course is the Holy Spirit. "Likewise, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray as we ought, but the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God." Even though we are too weak to overcome the problems of the world. The Holy Spirit, God Himself intercedes for us and helps us. Together and as individuals we see troubles, toils, and torments. Yet, we as individuals are bound together with God, and we as individuals are bound together to each other as His Church. We have a sure hope, and we have a sure help.

***How do we teach and apply these things to our children?***

1. Share the Scriptures with them. Share this Scripture with them from Romans 8. Tell them that no matter what happens God is with us. Tell them that we always have hope in God, and we always have help with God as well.
2. Are worried that you don't know how to pray. In the grace of God, remember that the Spirit prays for you because none of us pray as we ought.
3. It's a cliché, only because it is true, and here it is: "Pray more, worry less."
4. While we are all aware of the evil in our generation, there has always been evil. The struggle of God's people is to focus on God more than to be anxious over the evil.