



What do cross and trial do for believers? Pastor leads his family in today’s “Hopewell @Home” passage. Romans 8:18–39 prepares us for the opening of morning public worship on the coming Lord’s Day. In these twenty-two verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that present sufferings keep us groaning toward that glory for which God has predestined us in love, and which He is accomplishing in that very love through even the troubles and trials.

Tuesday, October 12, 2021 ▫ Read Romans 8:28–39

Questions from the Scripture text: Which things do we know work together for good (v28)? To whom do they work together for good? What did God also do to those whom He foreknew (29a)? To what did He predestine them (29b)? For what reason (29c)? What did He do for those whom He predestined (30a)? What did He do for those whom He called (30b)? What did He do for those whom He justified (30c)? Who is for us (31)? Who can (successfully) be against us? What (Whom!) did God not spare (32a)? What did God do with His Son for us? What will God give to us together with Him? What does God do instead of bringing a charge against His elect (33)? What does Jesus do, instead of condemning us (34)? What are some of the things that are not able to separate us from the love of Christ (35, 38-39)? What is one of the reasons that such things happen (36)? So, what is going on in the midst of these things (37)?

Next week’s Call to Worship, Prayer for Help, Song of Adoration, and Prayer of Confession all come from Romans 8:28–39, so that we will see that we are singing God’s thoughts after Him with *Why Should Cross and Trial Grieve Me?*

All things must work together for our good. Nothing can separate us from God’s love. These are truths that make hearts swell up with joy and praise.

And we see here what marvelously sure truths they are.

God’s love is sure, because it goes back before time. God “foreknowing” His elect is not some form of divine cheating by sneaking a peek at the end. It’s talking about knowing in terms of a relationship: He loved us before the world began (cf. Eph 1:3-6). It was this love, that He simply decided to set upon us, that led to our being predestined. A love that is from eternity cannot be undone by anything that occurs in time.

God’s love is sure, because it is in Christ and for His sake. God loves the glory of His Son, and He has determined that for the Son’s great glory, He would be displayed as the firstborn of many brothers and sisters who have been shaped to look like Him. We’re predestined to bring Christ glory!

God’s love is sure, because His law now demands that it continue. We have been justified with Christ’s righteousness. The One who makes the charges at the judgment is the One who has justified us (33). The One who condemns at the judgment is the One who has taken our condemnation and is continually pleading our case (34).

God’s love is sure, because its most infinite gift has already been given, and it is irrational to think that anything else could possibly be held back (32).

There are many things that come into our lives that threaten to shake our joy in God’s love. But, when we consider them in the light of the teaching in these verses, that threat quickly dissolves.

We realize, instead, that even if we are like sheep being slaughtered, it is for His sake. It is because we are joined to Him in that love from which we can never be separated. It is most certain that this love will prevail with us, and that we will prevail in the trial. Even before the trial ends, we can know already that we are more than conquerors!

Election and predestination are not dry, dusty doctrines for theological fuddy-duddies. They are the foundation of sure, victorious love!

In what current circumstance do you most need to cling to the cross and electing love?

Sample prayer: Our electing, glorious, righteous, and generous God, we praise You for investing the glory of Your Name, and the glory of Your Son, in our salvation. Forgive us for undercutting our own assurance by making our salvation about ourselves. Thank You for so identifying us with Yourself that we may know that even if we are slaughtered, it is for your sake. And grant unto us to see always that inseparable love with which You have loved us in Christ, through whom we ask it, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP130 “Lord, from the Depths” or TPH509 “Why Should Cross and Trial Grieve Me?”

For more Home devotionals, please visit bit.ly/harpCHAH

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording referenced above)

Romans 8 verse 18 through 39. These are God's words for I consider that the sufferings of, this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory, which shall be revealed in us for the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God, for the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, his objected it in hope because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God for, we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pains together until now, not only that.

But we also have who have the first fruits of the spirit. Even we are ourselves grown within ourselves eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. For, we were saved in this hope but hope that is seen is not hope for. Why does one still hope for what he sees.

But if we hope for what we do, not see, we eagerly wait for it with person hearings. Likewise the spirit also helps in our weaknesses For we, do not know what we should pray for as we ought. But the spirit himself makes intercession for us with groanings, which cannot be uttered.

Now he who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the spirit is because he makes intercession for the saints, according to the will of God. And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God to those, who are the cold, according to his purpose for whom he for new, he also predestined to be conformed, to the image of his son, that he might be the first born among many brother.

Moreover, whom, he predestined these, he also called whom he called these, he also justified. And we justified these, he also glorified what then shall we say to these things if God is for us? Who can be against us? You did not spare his own son but delivered him up for us all.

How shall he not with him also freely? Give us all things who shall bring a charge against God's elect, It is God. Who justifies who is you? Who condemns it is Christ who died. And furthermore is also risen who is even at the right hand of God who also makes intercession for us who shall separate us from the love of Christ, shall tribulation or stress, or persecution or famine, or nakedness or peril or sword as it has written for your sake.

We are killed all day long. We are accounted as sheet for the slaughter yet in all these things, we are more than conquers through him, who loved us front and persuaded. That neither death, nor life, nor angels, don't principalities nor powers nor things present, nor things to come nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

So, for the reading of God's Word,

So the Lord's day morning, we are going to have the first part of the service out of this passage.

And we are going to sing the thoughts of this passage or application of the thoughts, essentially, with why should cross or trial agree me. So, I decided to back up and, and take it from verse 18 for. I consider that the sufferings of, this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory, which shall be revealed in us.

Now, there's three kind of sections here from versus 18 to 27. The first section is versus 18 through 22 with the creation. The second section is versus 23 through 25 with us. And the third section is verse 26, and 27 with the spirit, the creation is groaning, but it's groaning in hope that's growing under its fallen condition.

But it's groaning towards the glorious. Freedom of the children of God, the glorious liberty verse 21, says, love the children of God. So it's subjected to futility. It is in bondage to corruption some of you you study in science, the concept of entropy everything breaks down and everything moves from order to disorder.

That's all a result of the fall and the creation is growing but it's groaning and hope the fact that the creationists still broken fallen corrupt in bondage to corruption, reminds us that there's a resurrection coming, that this is not how things are going to be forever. It's one of the things that troubles unbelievers when they start to think more consistently about what their pure materialism teaches them, what their peer materialism teaches them?

Is that eventually every entropy will win, everything will be completely spread out in chaotic, all of the energy will be used up. Everything will stop and everything will be dead. So, that's the end of the

materialism. That is underneath a lot of the philosophy of our culture, but the end of the theology of the Bible, the end of things as they actually are, is not that, but it's in the resurrection and a new heavens and a new earth and a new creation.

And right now, we already have new creatures those who are in Christ, so the creation is fallen, the creation is in bondage to corruption. We see that in many different ways in our world, but it's bound in hope verse 20, the creation of subjected to fertility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it and hope similarly, not only the creation, but Christians Christians, verse 23.

We who also, we also have the first fruits of the spirit. We grown eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our bodies. So the fact that our bodies are breaking down. If we were to go back into Romans chapter 7, the fact that the battle against our sin, seems to go so poorly.

So continuously these things make us grown because we are not going to end this way. We are going to end with glorified bodies and perfected, souls those whom he justified we read, we're going to get to it in a minute. He also glorified. So, we also are groaning because these are not as they are, but we are growing in hope, legally waiting verse 23, for the adoption of redemption of our bodies for we were saved in this.

Hope we don't see it yet, but if we saw it already, it wouldn't be a hope oh, because hope is for something you don't yet. See, so verse 25 says, but if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance. So if we know it is coming, and one of the things that's bothering us, a much in our life is that we don't have it yet the knowledge that it is coming, shouldn't make us despair, the knowledge that it is coming.

Should make us persevere. Okay, so you got to creation groaning and opening and you've got the Christian groaning and hoping. Now we don't grow well enough and we don't hope well enough. So we need help. And that's where the spirit comes in, and versus the 26th. And 27, likewise, the spirit also helps us in our weakness.

For we, do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the spirit himself makes intercession for us with groanings, which cannot be uttered. So our groanings aren't good enough but the spirit is better with his growings than anything we could utter. Okay. But it's not just our groaning that we don't do well enough.

It's also our hoping now, he who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the spirit is because he that is a spirit makes intercession for the saints. According to the will of God, the Holy Spirit knows exactly what he is bringing about. As he brings history forward to its conclusion in the resurrection.

As he sanctifies us in applying Christ to us. And so you have the creation, groaning, and hoping if the Christian groaning and hoping and then you have the holy spirit and our behalf with perfected. Groaning not perfected with perfect growing and perfect hoping. And we know that the spirits intercession is effectual because the as the spirit prays for us he's praying for exactly what God the father, the son and the Holy Spirit has planned from before the world began the transition from verse 27 to 28.

Okay? So this we don't know how to grown well enough. We don't know how to help well enough, but we do know what doing over verse 28, that all things work together for good to those who love God, to are the called, who according to his purpose, for those who he forn, you, he predestined, okay?

So we don't know all of the details between now and the end, but we know that it's come about by God's purpose by God's calling by God's knowing us ahead of time, loving us at a time and therefore being determined that everything that has happened so far in the world, everything that has happened so far in your life, everything that will happen in your life.

Everything that will happen in the world. It's all aiming at one purpose that in the last day you would be made like Jesus, okay? So this predestiny, that we would be conformed to the image of his son, so that Jesus might be the first born among many brethren that results in what's called in verse 30, the golden chain, those whom, he predestined, he called those who called he justified.

Those me justified he glorified. So if you're believing in, Jesus Christ, if you are a believer in the Lord Jesus you're trusting in him. You realize that your sin deserves how. But you realize the God has provided salvation for you in Jesus, and you're trusting him to be your salvation rejoicing.

That he died for you rejoicing, that God gave him for you. You're already on step three of this chain or four, if you're including those whom he for new predestined called justified that's already done what's left. Well if you want to say sanctified but think divide is is the process that we're in between justified and the one at the end of verse 30 glorified, that's what certain, that's what this spirit is.

Groaning over not having been completed yet. That's what the spirit is. He intercedes for us. Praise for perfectly as his groaning and hoping on our behalf are both perfect and that's what launches into

this certainty from verses 31 through 39. But then, shall we say to these things if God is for us who can be against us?

And you see right there in the middle of history God having entered the creation in order to atone for the sin of those whom he justifies and those whom he glorifies then if God has done this then we can be sure that everything from creation up until the crucifixion of Christ was for our good to bring us to be conformed to his image in the last day and everything from the crucifixion of Christ to the resurrection is for our good that we would be made like Jesus on the last day.

We will have been conformed to his image and everything from the fall to the crucifixion and from the crucifixion to the resurrection has been determined in that love of God, that was from before the world began. And so, if the love of God has planned all of this, even the fall, and of course the crucifixion.

And even every moment everything in your life, now you see that God already is the one who has justified us and Christ is already the one who has died and risen and sits at the right hand of God and not only is the spirit making intercession for us versus 26 and 27, but Christ is making a recession for us verse 34.

That's what's happening. Now, why? Because God has loved us in Christ, from before the world began, and God has loved us in Christ from the fall unto the cross. And in the wake of the cross, can we possibly think that that love is something that can weaken or waver or be on again and off again?

Of course not, it can't be interrupted. It can't be stopped. Nothing can stop it. And so he says, okay, she'll tribulation you ever had a trouble that could stop God from loving you who has done. So from before the world began who has brought Christ into the world who has accomplished the death and resurrection and ascension and rain and intercession of the Lord Jesus.

Hmm, how about persecution is there any persecution that that as interrupted? God's love for you? How about famine, what if you had nothing to eat? And you were dying of starvation or nakedness or danger or sword verse 36, even if you were killed all day long. Maybe if you were like a sheep being led to the slaughter, that would be for God's sake, because he loves you, because that is what he has planned.

As that particular, the the for that particular moment in which you would die and be. And but that moment would come in between his having loved you and predestined, you and called you, and justified you and your being glorified and conformed to the image of Jesus. So that Jesus would be the first born among many brethren.

That's not interrupting God's love for you. That's the mechanism by which you come into the next phase of even greater enjoyment of God in his love for you. So yet, and all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. Now that you know, that God has loved you from before the world began.

There is not a thing that can defeat you, the creation groans and hopes, the spirit groans and hubs and the more you learn, and they hold of with your heart, the love of God for you. In Christ Jesus, you will strain forward to what God in his love. Planned for you.

Because you want what he planned for you. And you will hope you will be sure. Even though you have not seen it yet, you will be sure of it already. What God has planned for you to be conformed to the image of Christ to enjoy him? And so he says foreign persuaded, the neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities don't powers.

And I think nor things present nor things to come nor height nor depth nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus. I Lord, so he can sing very truly. Why should cross and trial grieve me? Are they not what God has planned?

Who has purchased you by the blood of Christ in order to bring you into everything? Jesus has earned for you spray.

Our father in heaven. We thank you. That he has given us. This portion of your word to consider to rejoice over you to rejoice, over your goodness, to rejoice over your plan, your wisdom, your purposes to your voice over, how you sent Christ for us. And how he died and rose again and descended and sits on the throne and intercedes for us and how it is your love and your purpose that are determining moment by moment.

Even the crosses that we vary, even the trials that we go through, even the way and the time of our death, all of it from your wisdom, and your love and which you are bringing us to that, which you have determined and desired for us. We thank you that your Holy Spirit intercedes for us.

We are too satisfied with things, the way they are and we confess that one of the reasons are crosses and trials. Grieve us as they interrupt our oversatisfaction with earthly enjoyment and redoubt strain forward to that, perfect and infinite enjoyment of you and conformity to the Lord Jesus. So we thank

you that your spirit prays for that for us even as he works toward that and applying Christ to us.

And we ask that you would make us to know your love, that we would be able to go through life. As super conquers enjoying the victory of Christ in every trouble in every distress, even in hunger, or nakedness or sword, or danger, whatever you do, whatever you bring us through that, by the knowledge of your love and Christ we would grow.

Well, we would hope well, and we would be victorious. Granted we pray in Jesus name. Amen.