

## Study Guide - 12 April, 2020

Series: Easter Sunday

Text: Romans 8:18-39



*This guide will help you facilitate a clear understanding of the Bible passage with a focus on applying God's truth to our lives together. You should spend at least half your time discussing questions that are application focused. Look at the Big Idea and What your CG Must Take Away sections at the beginning of the guide to keep the discussion focused.*

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## Context of Romans

The letter to the Romans was written 57-58 AD by apostle Paul. He was called by God to bring Christianity to the Gentile world, and to establish churches. Rome was the capital of the Gentile world, and a church had developed among the Jews and Gentiles, but this church was facing persecution. In Romans 1-8 Paul argues that a man is justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the Law. Chapter 8 starts by Paul declaring that because we are justified by Christ there is "...therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:1).

## Outline of Romans 8:18-39

8:18-25: Suffering and the groaning of creation

- The eschatological hope of redemption of our bodies
- The physical manifestation of adoption by God
- Our Christian hope

8:26-30: How God helps His people as we wait

- The Spirit helps God's people
- All things work together for good for those who love God

8:31-19: God's everlasting love

- God did not spare his own Son for us
- Christ died and raised for us and now interceding for us
- Nothing can separate us from God's love

## Big idea

The only hope that truly is worthy of our trust is the hope given to us through Christ's death and resurrection.

## What your CG must take away from this study

To have a firm and unmovable hope in our future salvation that is anchored in Jesus' death and resurrection.

## Questions & Sample Answers

### Zoombreaker

Find something in your house that helps you feel hopeful and show it to the group. Why does it make you feel hopeful?

### Read Romans 8:18-39

*<sup>18</sup> For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. <sup>19</sup> For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. <sup>20</sup> For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup> that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup> For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. <sup>23</sup> And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup> For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? <sup>25</sup> But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.*

*<sup>26</sup> Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. <sup>27</sup> And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. <sup>28</sup> And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup> For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. <sup>30</sup> And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.*

*<sup>31</sup> What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? <sup>33</sup> Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup> Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. <sup>35</sup> Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? <sup>36</sup> As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered."*

*<sup>37</sup> No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup> For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup> nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

### Observation and meaning

Q1a. How do we see and experience the groaning of creation today?

Q1b. Why has the creation been groaning? What is creation waiting for? (v19-22)

Q2. What is the hope Christians have, according to this passage? (v19-25)

Q3. What is the reason we can be confident of this hope as Christians? (What is the object of our hope as Christians?) (v34, 29)

Q4. How does Paul argue that our hope is absolutely certain? (v28-37)

Q5. What is biblical hope according to this passage? (How is the word 'hope' used different to the way we normally use the word?) (v24-25)

Q6. How does God help us when we find it hard to trust his promises? (v26-27, 34)

Q7. How do you find it hard to have hope when God's promises don't seem to be coming true?

Q8. How does Jesus' resurrection give us hope when we face the very worst of circumstances?

Q9. How does your hope in Jesus change the way you live today?

Q10. How can we spur each other on as a CG to look forward to the hope we have in Jesus?

### **Apply Practically**

Break into small groups to pray for each other using Zoom's breakout feature.

In your groups, ask your partner or small group how you can pray for them to find their hope in Jesus, and if there are any other areas you can pray for them.