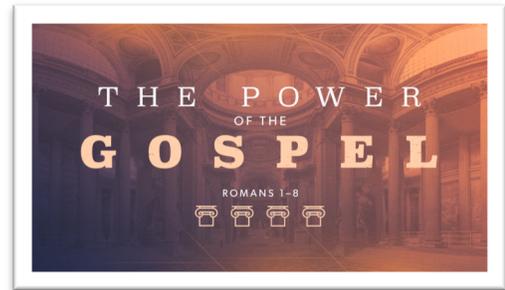


THE GOSPEL IS HOPE

ROMANS 8:18-30 // PASTOR TODD DUGARD
FEBRUARY 28, 2021



Gospel hope means acceptance of what is (8:18-23), patience in the waiting (8:24-25), reliance on the Spirit (8:26-27) and confidence in God's plan (8:28-30).

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. There is no human institution, culture, or experience free from the frustrating effects of sin. Think about where you have felt frustrated or that your efforts to make things better were futile. What is it about these situations that can cause you to lose a little hope?
2. Thankfully, we can regain hope through our relationship with Jesus Christ. Romans 8:18 encourages us to consider our present sufferings compared to the glory that will be revealed. How could you put this biblical direction into action right now?
3. Romans 8:19-25 gives us God's view of the world as it follows his plan for a glorious redemption. In your own words, what is his goal? Given this biblically informed understanding, how do constant pessimism or incessant optimism fall short of presenting the hope of the Gospel?
4. When we speak hope into each other's lives without acknowledging their frustration as real, we are (or can appear) insensitive. Have you ever come across that way? How can Christians present the value of their hope to a hurting person without being unrealistically optimistic?

5. Read Romans 8:26-27. What are three ways the Spirit helps you pray through situations that require hope?

6. Are you able to express your real feelings in prayer? Consider one situation that is frustrating or futile right now. What prayer(s) would express your aggravations before the Lord? Write it out briefly if appropriate. How does this honest prayer bring you closer to God?

7. How can someone know if Romans 8:28 applies to their lives?

8. How do the words foreknown, predestined, called, justified, and glorified apply to you in a personal way? (Focus on one of these words when sharing your answer in a group setting.)

9. Think about someone you know who appears to be losing hope:
 - If it helps, write their first name in the space below.
 - What verse or idea seems to be most applicable to their situation today? Write the verse reference or an application point beside their name. (It's okay if you need to write to yourself here!)
 - What message of hope does God want them to hear through you?