

Breakthrough Hope

How Future Promises Produce Present Hope

Blueprint for Breakthrough Series – Part 15 – SPEAKER

Romans 8:18-30

June 27-28, 2026

Introduction

- When the World Broke – mankind turned from God to self and it spoiled the goodness. In response to the rebellion, God cursed the creation and the process of mankind living on earth. It became frustrated, corrupted, more difficult, less satisfying, decaying.
- God's Brilliant Plan of Restoration – But instead of just scrapping everything and starting over, God put into plan a restoration program. Messiah
- Current Struggles and Pain – But today we live in the broken side of the equation. So, while God is fixing things how ought we to live? How do we keep our heads up when the suffering is pressing us down?
 - Paul's Perspective - 2 Co 4:16–18 – *"So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, ¹⁸ as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal."*
- The Best Perspective of Suffering -
 1. This world is not the end but just the beginning and the future is far better than this.
 2. God will not allow the pain and suffering of His people to simply be pain and suffering but He will redeem it and import meaning into it so it's not a waste.

PURPOSE and HOPE soothe current PAIN

- Last Week Recap – Pastor Rodney
 - There is no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus. God is not managing our sin, He's already dealt with it. Unfortunately some of us are letting our past preach louder than the cross.
 - God's goal isn't simply to forgive us but to transform us. We need to keep our mind on the Spirit not on self.
 - We are free from sin but still living with slave mindsets. The flesh can make requests but it no longer has rights.
- This Week – Set Up
 - A Helpful Concept to Know: Now-But-Not-Yet - God is always creator and Ruler, but as of now things are not as He wants them. He rules now in one sense, but not yet in another.
 - The hints of heaven – three places that it ought to be 'here on earth as it is in heaven'. a non-believer should be able to come to church, or walk into a

Christian home, or talk with a Christian and catch a glimpse of heaven and what can be waiting for them.

Lesson

- This or That
 - Paul puts temporal suffering in perspective
 - Romans 8:18 – *“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.”*
 - For I consider – our drifting minds are wrong. We must call them back to what is right and true.
 - that the sufferings of this present time – persecution +.
 - are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us - He is not saying that the suffering isn't difficult or terrible. He knows. BUT when he looks at the big picture = this life is short and the next phase is eternal. There is such a stark difference he wants to compare the two.
- Desperate Longing
 - Creation longs for freedom and help
 - Romans 8:19-22 – *“For the creation [this created world and all that is in it] waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹ 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. ²² For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.”*
 - waits with eager longing – personification = waiting for things to be fixed.
 - for the revealing of the sons of God – creation's renewal is tied to true believers (Christians) being renewed.
 - Speculation Warning: Revealed Now? – APPLICATION: is it possible that creation is eagerly waiting for Christians to be revealed in our current state as well as our future state? What would that mean? is it possible that the new creations we are right now, indwelt by the Holy Spirit, empowered by our identity and new nature, are already someone who can bring about a partial restoration to the creation around us? In other words, is creation desperately needing us to act like we are?
 - For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it - it wasn't creation's fault, but mankind's fault. God declared the judgment.
 - in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption – 'at the same time as He cast hope for it'.
 - and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God - creation's hope is tied to the promise God gave to His children. Since we are here things will get better.

- How God makes the world new – ‘new heavens and new earth’ brought from heaven and God coming to us, not us going to Him. = restore this universe with us and through us as we are glorified and Jesus Christ reigns fully. God’s fixing this universe like He’s ‘fixing’ our bodies. They aren’t destroyed and remade, but glorified and transformed.
 - What’s the reverse of ruining the world? – how will God do it WITH US? Why not let us partner in fixing it (with King Jesus)? participators? What would that look like? Jesus mastered the natural creation. What if we did those things and fixed what we broke? What if creation is waiting for us to fix it? What if creation is longing to be tended like Adam and Eve were to do at first? What if our commands and prayers lended to it’s thriving? Like the voice of Ezekiel in the valley of dry bones.
- For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now - analogy = excruciating but had a guarantee restoration ending that almost justified the pain?
- Dreams of Freedom
 - Christians longing wait for their new bodies
 - Romans 8:23 – *“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.”*
 - And not only the creation, but we ourselves – people = a significant missing component of our experience as Children of God. We are not living in the full freedom and power yet.
 - who have the firstfruits of the Spirit - agricultural term
 - What are the firstfruits of the Spirit? – the Holy Spirit Himself given to us as our GUARANTEE that more is to come.
 - groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons - ALREADY adopted but an ever-increasing reality (now-but-not-yet reality). with God a statement of fact means that the process is a sure thing.
 - the redemption of our bodies – Christianity teaches a bodily resurrection.
 - Paul Clarifies – Paul addresses the frustration and hope of a new body in 2 Corinthians = changed from a temporal/perishable body to one that works with a new eternal reality.
- Future Hope
 - Paul helps to define what hope is
 - Romans 8:24-25 – *“For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees?”²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.”*
 - For in this hope we were saved – We WERE saved (past) and yet saved in hope (future). more to come.

- Explaining how hope works – **it's about anticipation.**
 - Wait with patience - because God is on the job.
- Our Helper
 - The Holy Spirit's role in helping the saints
 - Romans 8:26-27 – "Likewise [as the Father is on the job] 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. ²⁷ 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."*
 - the Spirit helps us in our weakness, especially in prayer - **partnering with God to alter reality.** But here's the major issue: **We don't know what to pray for. We are too limited.** We are too biased. We are too ignorant.
 - What if you got what you asked for? – 20 years ago. Should He have authorized those?
 - but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words – This is **not likely a prayer language = Holy Spirit helping us in our weakened human state (subject to a cursed creation reality) to not be as limited. It's His way of helping us connect with God to continue to be effective when normally we may not be.**
 - The Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God - **the prayers that are answered most are those in alignment with the will of God.**
- The Power of Redemption
 - How God can turn any situation around for His children
 - Romans 8:28 – "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose."*
 - that for those who love God – **Christianity is personal and it starts and ends with love and relationship.**
 - all things work together for good - **All things in this life, good or bad, God uses and transforms into something good in the end. It doesn't say that everything is good. It says that God makes everything ultimately have a good purpose in our lives.**
 - for those who are called according to his purpose -
 - ADDRESS the Shawn Bolz Issue – God using it for good.**
 - My article written in January.
 - expose in January by Mike Winger a Christian apologist about the ministry of Shawn Bolz. Shawn was famous and partnered with Bethel Church in Redding.
 - Quietly in 2019 Bethel broke with him but no one else knew and Shawn continued.
 - Once revealed – Bethel handled bad then good.

- I tell you this story for two reasons: 1.) Confused BW'ers. 2. Good out of bad.
- Brothers of Christ
 - Paul describes our partnership with Christ in the redemption plans of God
 - *Romans 8:29-30 – “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.³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.”*
 - For those whom he foreknew – intentionality of God creating a people whom He would love and determining that before they were created.
 - he also predestined – planning of God
 - to be conformed to the image of his Son, - those whom God saves would be shaped and transformed into the image of His Son, Jesus Christ. No one was saved simply to stay the same.
 - in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. – wasn't going to be the only one to be resurrected to life and victory. There will be others who come after Him.
 - In what way are we 'brothers' of Christ? – similar to, or following in the example of.
 1. Just as He was glorified AFTER suffering, so too are we
 2. Just as He is an agent of transformation on earth, so are we.
 - he also called, = a meaningful plan with a role.
 - he also justified - purified/justified to be a part of that plan and to fill that role.
 - finally glorified - completion (glorified).
 - The point of all these statements – God is in control and working His system for us. He doesn't start only to not finish.

Conclusion

- It's tough here and now but there's a plan in place. God's working the plan.
- Keep our eyes on the Lord and on the fulfillment of His plan.