

The Gospel Makes Us Go (and Stay) – Romans 8:16-27
Hope Community Church, Sunday August 30th, 2020

Small Group Discussion Questions

Discussion Starter: Talk about times in life where the prospect of the future has kept you going in the here and now. How important was it that the future outcome was certain? Tangible? Imaginable?

Digging Deeper: Read Romans 8:16-27

1. What is the pathway to glory that Paul speaks of in 8:17? In what ways does this take you by surprise or fit with your expectations?
2. In verse 19 Creation is pictured as eagerly anticipating what God will do in the lives of his people. How does this open up your mind to what God is up to in our own personal salvation?
3. Identify all the characters in the story who are groaning through verses 22-27. Why might groaning be an appropriate picture of what is happening?
4. In verse 26 we find that the Spirit is helping us in our weakness. How does that description fit with your experience of Christian living?

Changing our Hearts

1. Do you have a picture of the glory that is in store for believers? How is this study helping to expand your thinking in this area?
2. What's your basic attitude toward your own body, how God has made you, and what your future hope is for you? How does the idea of the redemption of your body (8:23) help in shaping your own attitudes?
3. The Spirit's presence in our lives is called a firstfruit – verse 23 – (something that shows in an initial form what the future holds) but there's no fanfare here. What are some of the ways you see signs of the Spirit's presence through these verses?

Living It Out

1. How can God's valuing of Creation and his determination to restore it be expressed in your life?
2. Is there an event or circumstances in your life at present that needs the future perspective of these verses? Share together about what that is.
3. In what ways does the Spirit's interceding for us (8:26-27) encourage your life?
4. Pray for one another as you reflect on the message of Romans 8.