

Hope!

July 22, 2018

Thank you so much for choosing to worship with us today! We are thrilled you are here!

I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently. In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God. And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

Romans 8:18-30

All of us struggle with something or some things! No matter how much it looks like we have it all together, we all have something that causes us to "suffer." Life is just hard and affects us significantly. To not recognize this can make our "suffering" more difficult and/or cause it to last longer.

One of the greatest things in knowing Jesus is that in Him there is always hope. Hope that transcends anything that we can expect here on earth. Hope that is able to realize the good in God's purpose even when everything around us is broken. Hope that knows God is listening especially when we are speechless and can only groan. Hope that is eagerly expecting God to move in our suffering and knowing that he will. Hope in knowing that we are saved and that this life is only temporary.

What is your greatest hope? Place all your hope in Jesus and wait patiently for God to move in your life. His promise -- he will move because he loves you!

All Things for Christ,
Michael