

GROAN

Eight Weeks in Romans Eight



The Greatest Chapter on Earth

THIS AIN'T HUGH JACKMAN'S VERSION OF THE GREATEST THINGS

In December 2017, a box office musical featuring Hugh Jackman, Zendaya, Zac Efron, Michelle Williams, and many others took the country by storm. It was the telling of P.T. Barnum's rise to fame and the circus, and people, that got him there. The movie and songs claimed this was the greatest show on earth.

The book of Romans is by no means a show, but chapter 8 of Romans certainly is known as the greatest chapter in the Bible... probably the greatest chapter in all of literature. Many pastors, teachers, and theologians have made this claim, even at the risk of being contradicted.

Whether or not it is the "greatest" chapter, it certainly is a theologically and formatively rich chapter for the Christian. Over the next eight weeks, our church and Life Groups will journey through this chapter to see just how good our God is and our place in His story.

Schedule & Announcements

JAN 9 - FEB 27 | SERIES

JAN 13 - FEB 24 | CURRICULUM

ADULT MINISTRIES |

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDIES
SUN, TUES, WED - JAN-MAY

MEN'S BIBLE STUDIES
THURS - FEB

PLAYDATES FOR MOMS
FRI - JAN-MAY

ADDITIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS CAN BE FOUND ONLINE
AT LEGACYCHURCH.ORG

The Three Groanings

ROMANS 8:18-28

Recap last week's discussion and premise.

Read Romans 8:18-28

In verse 18, Paul states that he does not consider the sufferings of the present time to be compared to the glory that awaits Christians. What kind of sufferings did Paul and the Roman Christians endure? What kind of sufferings do we endure? What is the glory that is awaiting us? What do you long for most about that day? (*Consider using 2 Corinthians 4:17. Also when we stand before God in glory, sin is completely removed from our presence and our faith will be made sight.*)

Pastor Kevin stated in his sermon that this section of Scripture reveals three groanings. What are those three groanings? (*Creation, Humanity, the Spirit*)

Paul states in verses 19 and 20 that creation eagerly longs for the revealing of God's children, and that creation was subjected to futility/frustration (i.e. *not reaching the intended perfection of God's purpose*). Paul is personifying creation in this section, and helps Christians see that sin and brokenness impacts every area of the world we live in. In what ways do you see creation still being subjected to frustration today? Do you think the concept of creation being subjected to futility is important? Why or why not?

Verse 21 offers hope for creation and its restoration. We know that we are promised a new heaven and a new earth in our future with God. Are there any other sections of Scripture that you can think of that reveal this promise as well? (*You might consider and/or point people to Isaiah 65:17-19, 2 Peter 3:11-13*, Revelation 21:1-5 | *nota bene: the 2 Peter passage might cause confusion, especially when it comes to eschatological [end times] positions of interpretation. The main thing to remember about this passage is the new heaven and the new earth is a place where righteousness dwells. Do not get lost in the language of this passage. Utilize Blue Letter Bible if you need help with 2 Peter 3:11-13 or any other passage.*)

Verse 22 finally begins discussing the groaning of creation and Paul compares it to labor pains. One commentator stated "Its (creation's) sufferings are both a result of past events and a portent of future deliverance." In what ways do we understand this as a result of today's passage? How does the concept of labor pains help you understand what Paul is saying in this passage?

Verse 23 shifts to the second groaning, which is the groaning of Christians. What is it that Christians groan for? (For this answer, the group may consult sections such as Ephesians 1:13-14, Ephesians 4:30, and 1 John 3:2 | i.e. *Redemption and Inheritance*.) Are there other things Christians might groan or long for? If so, what are they?

Why might Paul make the statement that "hope that is seen is not hope"? Can you think of an example that corresponds with this statement?

Verse 26 tells us that the Holy Spirit intercedes on our behalf and prays with groanings too deep for words. Is this a new concept to you? What is the role of the Spirit in the life of a Christian?

Donny Berry and Thomas Constable both contributed to the following statement - "... *what the precise will of God is, is often hard for us to ascertain. The Holy Spirit then comes to our aid: 'He intercedes for us.'* Intercede means to pray for someone else. Groanings or groans expresses feelings of compassion for our weak condition. The Holy Spirit requests the Father's help for us with deep compassion. Essentially, He prays for the glory of God to be revealed in us through sanctification." How does this statement make you feel and what impact does it have on your life? How does the passage today help clarify or inform the aforementioned statement?

Is there anything else in the passage that you would like to discuss?

"The assurance Paul feels able to give is that God, who looks beyond outward appearance and mere words, recognizes full well what the inarticulate groans signify—namely, that basic orientation to and dependence on God which still looks to God even when it has nothing to say."

- James Dunn