

**The promise of our hope: a future glory**  
**(Rom 8.18-30; 03-22-20am)**

**Central thought:** Those who trust in the promises of God can have a sure & certain hope of eternal glory.

**I. God promises a future glory for every believer (18-25)**

A. Present sufferings are real, and they are minor compared to future glory (18-22)

1. Since the Fall in the Garden of Eden, suffering is unavoidable for all of creation (19-20) (cf. Gen 3.17)

2. God ordains all suffering (20)

3. Purpose of suffering is to nurture or fortify hope (20) (cf. Rom 5.3-5)

*hope will not disappoint* because in God's economy, our hope is tethered to His promise

4. Suffering is a by-product of bondage (of sin) (21-22)

The vaccine for suffering is hope. Hope does not remove the suffering, but it does help us see the end of it  
We suffer because God has ordained suffering in the life of His children.

Suffering causes believers to trust God's promises that suffering will end in their future glory

B. Believers are motivated to hope in God's promises because they know final adoption is coming (23-25)

1. The present taste of salvation causes us to want the full meal (23)

What is *first fruits of the Spirit*? First fruits of a harvest promise that more harvest is coming

Paul's use of that phrase is his way of reminding us, the full harvest (fruit) of our salvation is yet to come

2. The Holy Spirit serves as a deposit for our hope (23)

3. Ultimate hope is grounded in the one who saved us (24-25)

What hope? The hope of God's love; a hope that does not disappoint; a hope that builds patience in us

Believers place their hope of future glory in the faithfulness of God who has promised future glory

## II. Becoming like Christ is the future glory of God's promise (26-30)

God's promise equips believers and it creates excitement in the lives of believers

In this section, we see that one of the ministries of the Holy Spirit is to intercede for God's children  
Our equipping to trust in God's promises comes to us through the Holy Spirit who resides within us.

A. Equipping: The Holy Spirit intercedes for us (26-27) (cf. Heb 7.25)

1. The Holy Spirit is a partner in prayer (26)

2. The Holy Spirit is a guide for our wills (27)

Holy Spirit does not ignore our praying or run over the top of our prayers – His ministry is never forceful

Holy Spirit knows our hearts & minds, and He also knows the mind and will of God

End of v27 reminds us: when our communication with God falls short, Holy Spirit helps us

B. Exciting: God's promises never go unfulfilled (28-30)

1. God promises that He will work all things for our good (28)

2. One Goal with 5 Steps (29-30)

a. Foreknew This is an active knowledge – knowledge with a plan & the means to fulfill the plan

b. Predestined God has determined (beforehand) who will be conformed to the image of Jesus

c. Called This is initiating work of God – where God's saving is connected to God's choosing

d. Justified This is the legal work of God – where God declares that believers are not guilty

e. Glorified The culminating work of God – bringing believers into the likeness of Jesus (cf. v23)

Four takeaways that should help all of us in these unfamiliar times.

1. When you see *suffering* in your life as evidence of God's calling on you – you reinforce your assurance

2. When you define *hope* as leaning on God's promise to help you endure to end – *hope will not disappoint*

3. When you ask Holy Spirit to help you pray according to God's will – your prayers will equip your hope

4. When you search every circumstance to see how God might be using it for your good

Though you may discover how, the search will cause you to draw near to God in assurance & faith