

Encounter these verses today:
*circle words that you identify with,
underline phrases or sentences you'd
like to remember, write questions about
the passage out to the side ...*



Romans 8:18-39 :: Suffering Can't Compare to Glory (NIV)

18 I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. 19 The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. 20 For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God.

22 We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. 23 Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. 24 For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? 25 But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

26 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 with groans that words cannot express. 27 And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.

More Than Conquerors

28 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. 29 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. 30 And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

31 What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? 33 Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? 36 As it is written:

*"For your sake we face death all day long;
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered."*

37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.



*What are the most troubling examples
of suffering you see in our world today?*

Why does God allow suffering?

What can we learn from suffering?

How can we respond to suffering?

Personal Reflection/Application:

How can my suffering be used for God's glory?



Miss Something? That's okay!
You can download this sermon at flushingcommunity.org

Digging Deeper

[Use these readings to prepare you for worship next week!]

Monday: 09.17.2012

Prayer Focus: Our church

Passage: Psalm 46:1

Insight: This past Sunday, Pastor Terry began a new series looking at the various road blocks and obstacles that get in the way of our spiritual life (and life in general). This series began by looking at the hurdle of suffering in our world. You can't go a few minutes and not be confronted with some form of suffering.

How do you typically respond to suffering? Ignore it? Pretend it's not there? Become overwhelmed by it? Or deal with it?

Tuesday: 09.18.2012

Prayer Focus: The Flushing Community

Passage: Job 1-2

Insight: There may be no greater example of suffering in the Bible than the life of Job. He had everything and even honored God deeply. The picture of Satan being with the angles is disturbing to me but somehow there he is and God grants his request to test Job with this incredible journey of suffering.

What questions come to your mind after reading these chapters? How do you respond to God allowing this to happen to Job?

Wednesday: 09.19.2012

Prayer Focus: Intercession (use the iPray Guide)

Passage: Romans 8:18-39

Insight: Paul's words here are meant to encourage us while we experience life on Earth. Suffering is not new and it's not limited to certain people. These verses express a perspective that our troubles are not bigger than our hope in Jesus Christ.

Is seeing the bigger picture difficult for you in the midst of suffering? How can these words help you stay focused on the goal of our life—salvation and life eternal?

Thursday: 09.20.2012

Prayer Focus: Your School (teachers, admin, etc)

Passage: Job 38-39

Insight: This Sunday, we will be looking at a new hurdle—the obstacle of science vs. faith. To get us thinking about this topic, let's return to Job and look at God's response to all of Job's complaining. As God puts Job in his place, he is sharing so many amazing illustrations from the world of science.

In what ways do you think that science and faith work against one another? How do they compliment one another?

Friday: 09.21.2012

Prayer Focus: Our nation

Passage: Psalm 111:2

Insight: One verse to read today but it's loaded. The works of God have been studied since the beginning of time. No one can look under a microscope and not logically see an amazing world that God has created. I've often said it takes more faith to think we have evolved from nothing into this without the help of a creator. Science is a powerful tool to reveal God's presence and to take delight in His handiwork!

What questions do you have as you consider the relationship between science and faith in Jesus?

iPray

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