

## Questions for Growth Group Discussion and Personal Reflection

### Romans 8:18-30

1. What is the longest you have ever had to stand in line or wait for something? Was the wait worth it?
2. In your opinion, what is the difference between hope and wishful thinking? Has your hope in Christ helped you over the years? If so, when and how? If not, why do you think that is?
3. What is the difference between the groans that come from birth pains and those that come from death pains?  
Read between the lines and try to unpack what it means to say that:
  - a. Creation is groaning
  - b. Christians are groaning
  - c. The Spirit is groaning in prayer
4. Using Scripture and imagination, paint a picture of what you and creation will be like when we are both fully redeemed. How is this “glory”?
5. Among other things, the Spirit is here to teach us, remind us of everything Christ has taught us, guide us into all truth, reveal things from the Father, give us power for life and witnessing, and ultimately, bring glory to Christ (Jn 14:26; 16:13-15; Acts 1:8). With all this in mind,
  - a. What does it mean to you that the Spirit also prays on your behalf when you do not know what to pray?
  - b. What does this say about God’s provision for you?
  - c. What does this say about your weakness and God’s acceptance of you just as you are?

*As you discuss verses 28-30, please keep your focus on Paul’s intent (to give us assurance of God’s salvation in Christ) and do not let yourself get sidetracked on issues that, though connected, are not at the center of this passage (is there double-predestination? How does “free will” play in to this? Armenian vs. Reformed Theology, Infralapsarianism vs. Supralapsarianism, just to name a few).*

6. Read Romans 8:28-30.
  - a. What is your initial gut reaction to this teaching?
  - b. Is it accurate to say that God’s definition of the “good” is that we are more fully conformed to the likeness of His Son? Why or why not?
  - c. What do you think it means to have all the links in God’s promise-chain (v. 30) be in the past tense?
7. What does the information from verses 28-30 add to your understanding of verse 31? What would be an appropriate response to this salvation?

### **Closing Exercise**

Like 3-D glasses at the movies, the Spirit makes it possible for us to see things from a perspective that would be impossible for us without Him for the Spirit enlightens “the eyes of [our] heart” so we can understand the hope to which God calls us (Eph 1:18).

Pull out a piece of paper and pencil. In silence, pray for a growing awareness of God’s Spirit in you and ask the Lord to give you His perspective on an issue you currently face (at work, home, in parenting, in the news, a personal struggle, a persistent desire, etc). Wait for the Spirit to bring something to mind. If something comes, write it down. Ask Him why He brought this issue to the forefront of your mind and how He’d like you to see it.

If nothing comes to mind, do not fret. Hold the question open in your heart and be patient; the Lord will answer your prayer. If something did come to mind, would you be willing to share it with the group?

Close with group prayer. Ask the Lord to increase your faith, your understanding, and your depth of conviction in the truth of the hope you carry.

### **In the Coming Week:**

Some things to Ponder

- Paul longed to be free from the suffering brought on by his “thorn in the flesh” but God would not remove it (2 Cor 12:8-10). What did God teach him by saying “No”? What is hard or easy about this lesson as it applies to you and your prayers?
- Read Romans 8:31-39
- Memorize Romans 6:16a