

Bible Study of Romans
Romans 8:24-30

Vs. 24-25:

1. Hope and Christian hope are two different things. What is Christian hope?
2. What is/are the object(s) of the believer's certain hope? What other Scriptures confirm the answer?
3. "Additional to the certain and many promises of God, the work of the Holy Spirit is also a part of the Christian hope." Discuss this statement and if true, how can we support this Biblically?
4. How does hope help believers to journey through this earthly life?

Paul has written about the trials of the believers, the groaning under the burden of sin and travailing of the entire creation for the day of God's redemptive work upon Jesus' second coming. But how can believers maintain hope and be patient when around us the trials and difficulties of life crowd in? The answer is given in the remaining part of this lovely chapter. The purpose of these verses is to re-assure the believer that things are not what they feel or seem like.

To aid the believer in the daily warfare, Paul has presented several rich truths. In vs. 17, he reminded them of their fellowship with Jesus. As they suffer with Him, they shall also be glorified with Him. In vs. 18 he placed our present suffering in perspective with the future glory. Seen in that light, our present sufferings aren't worthy of the attention or discussion we give them. In vs. 19-24 he spoke about the groanings every born-again soul experience about the burdens of indwelling sin and the longing for the removal of the curse. Those groaning are not the death-throes but the birth-pangs of the new life.

But the objection may still be made. All this would be beautiful if only I had the strength to bear up under all these many painful trials. To answer this fear and minister in this need, Paul speaks about an additional and internal source of encouragement as well as various other rich truths.

Vs. 26-27

5. Before looking at this verse in detail, let's consider what comforting truths Jesus has spoken before He physically departed from His Church. What can we glean from John 14-17 about His commitment to His Church left behind in the earth?
6. Vs. 26 begins with 'likewise'. What does this 'likewise' compare to?
7. What are we to understand with 'infirmities'?

8. How are we to understand the Spirit's help in these infirmities? Are we to understand these 'groans' to be the Holy Spirit Himself or what the Holy Spirit stirs in the heart of believers?
9. What is the comfort Paul speaks of in this verse?

The following verse (28) is both a conclusion of the previous verses but also a sort of introduction to the second half of the chapter. Looking back over chapter 8 God has assured His people

- that there is no condemnation to those united to Christ (1-8);
- that our bodies will be resurrected since we are inhabited by the Spirit of God (9-11);
- that we will inherit the glory of God (14-16)
- that our present sufferings shouldn't distract us from the future glory (17-18)
- that one day we dwell in a new heaven and earth where all groaning will be over (19-25)
- that while in this time state, the Holy Spirit will never forsake us but bear up the saints in all their infirmities, such as prayer (26-27)

On basis of all this, God assures us that everything we will experience in this life is to our profit. The following verse can be seen as an answer to a question. If God hears our sighs and groaning, if He loves us so much, why are we not delivered from our afflictions and troubles?

Vs. 28

10. Before we look at the content of this verse, we must define for whom this verse is written. Who are to take comfort of this Scripture?
11. How can we 'know' this what Paul here asserts, namely, that all things work together for good?
12. Is 'knowing' the same as 'understanding?' If not, what is the difference?
13. On basis of this verse, what must our 'theology of suffering' be? In other words, do we think Biblically about suffering?
14. How do sufferings profit God's saints? Enrich your answer with some Biblical or personal examples.