

SEVEN KEYS TO CONFIDENCE

Key Truth #4: It Will Be Worth It All

The Bible doesn't attempt to provide complete explanations for all suffering in the world. There are no simple formulas or pat answers that always apply! What the Bible does provide is the hope we need to cope with our suffering, in passages like Romans 8:18-28.

Key words in this passage:

- _____
- _____
- _____

Key to coping with suffering: _____ (v. 18)

"I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us." Rom. 8:18 (See also 2 Cor. 4:16-18; James 1:2-3; Romans 5:2-5)

Greek "consider": _____

What is our hope in suffering?

1. _____

"What we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will give us later. For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day..." Rom 8:18-19

2. _____

"Against its will, everything on earth was subjected to God's curse. All creation anticipates the day it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay." Rom. 8:20-21

3. _____

"...all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. And even we Christians, although we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, also groan to be released from pain and suffering. We, too, anxiously wait for that day when God will give us... the new bodies he promised us." Rom 8:22-23

4. _____
"...the Holy Spirit helps us in our distress. For we don't even know what we should pray for, or how we should pray. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying..." Rom. 8:26-27

5. _____
"And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them." Rom. 8:28

Daily Meditations

Here's a chance to "take it home": Spend a few minutes every day reading Scripture, praying, and answering thought provoking questions about this weekend's topic!

This week's memory verse: *"I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us." Rom. 8:18*

Monday

Look back over the message notes. Where do you "groan" with pain or suffering in your life?

Where do you need to "wait"?

Which of the five points are easiest for you to believe?

Which is hardest?

Give to God today in prayer the specific area of your life where you need to apply this message!

Tuesday

Reread Romans 8:17-25. What frustrates you most about living in a fallen world?

How can the hope of verses 22-25 help you?

What's the difference between hope and wishful thinking?

How has your hope in Christ helped you this week? If it hasn't, how could it?

TLC message by Pastor René Schlaepfer, June 22 & 23, 2002

Read 1 Corinthians 15:51-58. Here Paul gives us a few more details about our new resurrected bodies. What appeals to you about this description?

How does the confidence of verse 58 flow from a belief in the previous verses?

Thank God specifically for the hope mentioned in these verses! Apply this hope in prayer to your worries today.

Wednesday

Reread Romans 8:26-28. When was the last time you didn't know how to pray?

How did the Holy Spirit help you?

What purposes of God could be accomplished through suffering?

How have you seen God work His purposes through suffering in your life?

Thank God today that His purposes will always be accomplished, even through suffering. Please pray for His purposes to be advanced specifically in the areas of your life where you are experiencing pain or grief. Pray for those who suffer in the world-- the poor, the oppressed, those in war-torn areas like the mideast.

Thursday

If a key to coping with suffering is perspective, it's helpful to see the long view in the Book of Revelation. Read Revelation 21:1-4. In his vision, what did John see coming out of heaven?

How did the voice describe the new world to come?

In what way will this new world reflect God's glory and holiness (Verses 21-27)?

How does this description help give perspective to the things we go through now?

Why do you think many people don't think much about heaven? What are they missing?

Ask God to help you remember the glories that await!

Friday

Read Revelation 22:1-6, a further description of your eternal home, if you've received Christ as Savior. What was growing on each side of the river?

Of what value are the leaves of the tree of life?

What does this passage tell us about God?

How can you honor the life God created?

Again, ask God to help you live joyfully in light of the promised land of the new heaven and earth!

Saturday

Look back over the notes and the devotions this week. Finish any you may have missed. Polish up the memory verse at the top of the page. *Pray for the services this weekend! Thanks!*

Some questions this week adapted from NavPress "LessonMaker" and "The Serendipity Bible".