

The Facilitator

Community Groups @ Trinity Presbyterian Church

4/1/18

Text: Romans 8:28, 31-39 (ESV)

Title: Secure & Hopeful in God's Love

Teacher: Tim Rice

Surrender through Prayer:

Surrender through prayers for Illumination and Transformation, asking that Jesus would meet with you in this time.

Engage with the Sermon

Read the passage together

In his sermon, Tim led us through the end of Romans 8 as we looked at our ultimate and eternal security in Jesus. As Paul writes in this passage, "If God is for us, who can be against us?" The security we find in the gospel is one that can never be broken, that our ultimate need for salvation, for love and security, and a hope beyond this world are all found in Jesus. And so, as Paul writes, if God would give us His own son, how will He not also give us *Anything* that we need. In our sinfulness, especially in our western culture, we twist God's words into a "Health and Wealth Gospel", thinking God will make everything in my life easier and give me more stuff, or that I will obey and God will do what I want Him to do. However, that is contrary to everything we see in scripture. The hope of the gospel is not in God making life easier, but that we find our ultimate satisfaction and hope in Christ, and then we can look beyond our temporary struggles to a greater hope and relief, and know, as Paul writes, that God is actively working even the most terrible brokenness in our lives for our ultimate and eternal good.

Reflection Questions:

- 1. As Tim said, If God would cover my ultimate need, then even in the face of suffering I can be hopeful in Him, and I can know He is working it all for my good.*
 - Think of a time you experienced suffering in your life. Where did you look for hope or relief?**
 - When has suffering or hardship felt overwhelming?**
- 2. In our western culture, we often find a "Health and Wealth Gospel" (expecting that if we believe, God will make our circumstances perpetually better), or a "Moralistic Gospel" (that if I obey God and check off the list, He'll give me what I want).*
 - In what ways have you expected God to make your life better? How have you bought into the "Health and Wealth Gospel"?**
 - When have you been most disappointed with God's plans for you and why?**
- 3. Turning all things for our good does not mean "preventing" bad things from happening. It means He is more powerful than anything we may fear, and turns it to our ultimate and eternal good.*
 - What was the greatest evil or brokenness in your life that God will turn to good?**
 - Spend time worshipping Him for such an amazing promise.**

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WORSHIP AND PRAYER:

A.C.T.S.

(Spend time in prayer and worship as you consider Adoring God the Father, Confessing your sin and weakness, giving thanks to Jesus, and asking Holy Spirit to transform you. Use this as a time to talk to God about what's been revealed in your heart from this sermon.)

1. ADORATION *(The Father)*

Adore and Worship God for His attributes and actions

2. CONFESSION *(Me)*

Spend time Confessing sin and ways in which you are finite and limited

3. THANKSGIVING *(Jesus)*

Give thanks to Jesus for his salvation (past, present, future)

4. SUPPLICATION *(Holy Spirit)*

Ask Holy Spirit to transform you in specific ways

5. Prepare for Gospel Community *(My Neighbor)*

Pray for those who are on your heart, that God would use you to impact them with His gospel message.

Prayer Items

- 1. Worship the LORD, God Almighty for His wisdom and power over suffering and death. Praise Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit for His sovereign ability to turn everything bad to ultimate, eternal good.*
- 2. How have you lived as if what you fear is more powerful than Jesus and His love for you? Confess the unbelief that lies beneath your fears to Jesus, asking Him to forgive you and to secure you by His sovereign power.*
- 3. Give thanks to Jesus for the 2 phases of His work. Thank Him for His conquest of sin, death and hell by His death and resurrection, and thank Him for His eventual resolution of all that is wrong at His return.*
- 4. Who do you know that lives hopelessly, controlled by their fears? Pray for them, asking the Lord to conquer their fears by His death (to cleanse them from guilt) and His resurrection (to save them from death).*
- 5. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you insight and wisdom in the face of suffering and death. Pray that He would anchor you in Jesus' sovereign power and love vs. all that is wrong in you and broken in this world.*