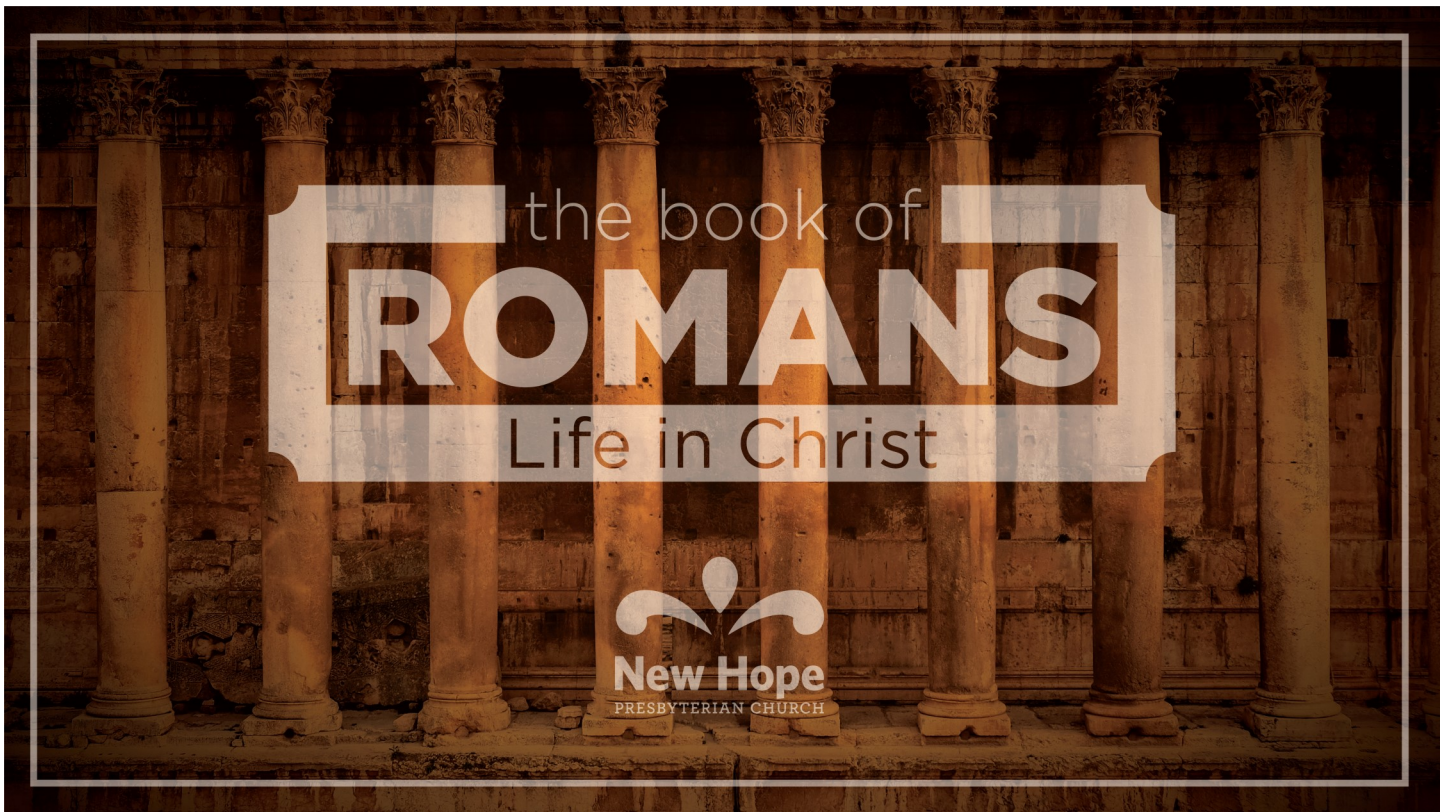




Romans: Life in Christ Study Guide

The Trinity at Work

November 7, 2021

Romans 8:18-39

18 I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; ²⁰for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; ²³and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

28 We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

31 What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³²He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶As it is written,

'For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.'

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

1. What do you learn about the suffering of believers in this passage?
2. What about the suffering of creation? Have you ever considered that creation is waiting on God to reveal himself, too?
3. What do you learn in this passage about the Spirit's work? The Son's work? God's work? The Trinity is at work for us! Ponder the reality that both the Spirit and Jesus intercede for *you* (vs.26 and 34). What is your reaction to this teaching of Paul?
4. Read 8:28-30 in at least two translations. What do these lines say to you? In light of the verses that come before and after v.28, what does this verse mean?
5. Verses 31-39 are some of the most encouraging words in all of Scripture. How do they speak to you this week?

Reflections on Romans

"In this well-loved passage from chapter 8, Paul makes an important assumption. The Christian life involves suffering. The Christian way is not at all like some of these popular 'spiritualities' that we hear so much about nowadays. The Christian path is not a self-indulgent flight into a world of angels and spirits and religious fantasy. It is grounded in the real struggles of flesh-and-blood people, our brothers and sisters who sometimes irritate us to no end but are nevertheless given us by God to be our neighbors. When St. Paul writes about the love of Christ, he doesn't mean hearts and Valentines. He means the daily struggle to act with love toward one another even when we feel we can't stand each other, because that is the only way we can truly embody the life of the Savior who gave himself up to his enemies and a terrible death for our salvation."

From *Not Ashamed of the Gospel*, by Fleming Rutledge, p.260

Next Week: Romans 9