

Christian Hope and our Helper

Sermon 26 in the Romans Series

Romans 8:24-27

Review -- Groaning

Last week we looked at the groaning the created world – as if nature and all creation were alive and waiting for the day when the sin that has marred it so badly will be done away.

Nature itself groans and waits for the Day of Redemption. **19-22**

We then moved into v. 23 – centering on our groaning as we wait for the full and final benefit of adoption – which is the redemption of our body. **23**

I. Hope and the Christian -- 8:24-25

A. Hope is for this Present Day

v. 24 -- "*For we were saved*" = in the aorist tense.

That means that salvation is already ours.

Eternal life begins at regeneration, not death.

"in this hope" = implies a future realization of this reality.

1 Corinthians 15:12-19

B. We hope for what we do not see – but believe it by faith

The lost can only live and die in false hope.

Or simply not face spiritual realities as given to us by God in the Holy Scriptures.

C. Hope will be unnecessary in Heaven.

2 Cor. 4:18 while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen *are* temporary, but the things which are not seen *are* eternal.

1 Cor 13:13 -- And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

II. The Holy Spirit and the Christian -- 8:26-27

He is with us always.
He is our helper and guide.
He indwells believers.
He helps us in our weaknesses.

We have a two-fold encouragement in prayer.
We have the intercession of Christ AND the intercession of the Spirit.

B.B. Warfield *“This is not an intercession through us as mere conduits, unengaged in the intercession ourselves; it is an intercession made by the Spirit as **our helper and not as our substitute...** The Spirit intercedes for us then **by working in us** right desires for each time of need; and by **deepening** these desires into unutterable groans. **They are our desires, and our groans.** But not apart from the Spirit. **They are his; wrought in us by him.**”*

v.26 – “The Spirit also helps in our weaknesses.”

The Greek words “helps” is a rare word, found only twice in the NT. Here and in Luke 10:40 – “tell her **to help** me”

We are weak, and in context, the particular assistance we need is in our not knowing how we ought to pray.

Jesus Christ is our advocate before the throne of the Father, and the Spirit is another advocate, **John 14:16-18** -- ¹⁶ And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another at He may abide with you forever— ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. ¹⁸ I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

v. 27 – “according to the will of God.”

This is vital. Christ himself modeled this in Gethsemane, “Not my will but thine be done.”

We Have the Holy Spirit

v. 9 – He indwells us
v. 14 – He leads us
v. 15, 16 – He bears witness to our sonship
v. 23 – He is the first-fruits of our adoption
v. 26 – He helps us in our weaknesses

Because of the Spirit – our weak and feeble prayers are heard and answered according to the will of God.