

ULC Sermon Study Resource
Crisis to Renewal // Renewal of Hope
Pastor Marcus Lane
October 10th, 2021

Prayer: Pause for a few moments to go to the Lord in prayer. Ask that He would draw near to you in this time, and open your heart and mind to hear His Word.

Icebreaker: What is your favorite decade?

Reading: Romans 8:18-30

Outline:

- I. Hope is Defiant (vs. 18-25)
 - a. The experience of this suffering as a result of human sin & rebellion is universal but not eternal.
 - b. The universal reality of suffering that all of creation is subject to because of sin is not our origin or destiny.
Q: Why does Paul make a point to discuss the reality of hope found in the Christian journey?
- II. Defiant Hope Resists Cynicism (vs. 26-27)
 - a. God knows your weakness. God knows the challenge of clinging to hope in the face of suffering & struggle.
 - b. Clinging to Christian hope is not a matter of the strength of your will power. It is ultimately the Spirit's work in you.
Q: How does cynicism reject hope?
- III. More Than Toxic Positivity (vs. 28-30)
 - a. All things will work for our good because our hope is rooted in the activity of God. In the end, we will be okay, because God is for us.
 - b. The reason Paul calls us to cling to our hope in the face of present sufferings is because The Son of God already took on our humanity. He already died our death. He already rose victorious.
Q: How does suffering and hope come together?

Reflection/Application Questions:

- 1) Where is hope weak in your life?
- 2) How is the christian hope more than just a sentiment that can be manipulated to make us "tough it up?"
- 3) Where does cynicism reject hope in your life?
- 4) Why is it important to identify the root of where your hope lies?
- 5) How does the gospel tie into the theme of hope in your life?

Suggestions for further study:

- Titus 1:1-2 **Q: What is meant here in the promise of eternal life that gives us hope?**
- Isaiah 43:1-2 **Q: How does God's character give us hope?**
- Romans 5:2-5 **Q: How does this verse remind us that the christian hope is greater than suffering?**

Closing Prayer:

Gracious God, our suffering and our pain, the groanings of our pain in creation are not a mystery to You and they haven't fallen upon deaf ears. God, you have acted to provide for our greatest need by sending your Son to be like us in every way so that He might bring healing to everything. Healing to suffering, sin and our weakness, healing so that we may one day live in the perfect kingdom that you have for us. May your spirit be active within us and give us faith and hope. Amen