

Family TableTalk

Conversation 05

The Hope of Things Unseen

read

Romans 8:22-25

think

Imagine that your favorite team plays in a championship game, but you're not able to watch it live. At the end of the night you check your phone and see that they won, so the next morning you sit down to watch the recording. Even though you haven't seen it yet, you know that when the clock hits zero, you're going to be the happiest person

in the world! Well, in Romans 8 Paul uses a word to describe this type of knowledge—it's called "hope."

In the English language we typically use the word hope to mean wish. "I hope I make a good grade on this test" or "I hope I get into this school" or "I hope my team wins." It's a way of saying, "I don't know what's going to happen, but I wish it would work in my favor." But the Bible uses the word hope to describe a future certainty, not a wishful dream. John Piper says, "Hope is faith in the future tense."

In this passage of Scripture, Paul says that we hope for what we cannot see, and we wait for it with patience. If we were to read all of Romans 8, we would see that Paul is writing about our future glory in Jesus. He's reminding us that even when the world around us is crumbling (as it might seem to be with this pandemic), we know how our story ends. If we are in Christ, we have a future certainty that our bodies and souls, as well as creation itself, will one day be made new. And we don't just wish for this moment; we hope for it with all our hearts.

apply

- What do you think Paul means when he tells us to hope for what we cannot see?
- Can you think of any stories in the Old Testament when God's people hoped for what they could not see? How do those stories point us to the coming of Jesus?
- How do you think we might apply this passage of Scripture to the coronavirus epidemic?

pray

Jesus, you purchased a hope and a future for your loved ones when you laid down your life on the cross and then rose again. Help us to trust in that hope and not in the uncertainty of this world. Thank you for the promise of this hope, especially in times of great turmoil and uncertainty. May we worship you alone and live each day to your honor and glory. Amen.

by Joe Deegan

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