

SERMON SUMMARY

Romans 8:18-39 confronts us with one of the most profound questions we wrestle with: how can a good God allow suffering? This passage doesn't minimize our pain but radically reframes it against the backdrop of God's coming glory. We're invited to see suffering through a stunning metaphor—creation itself groaning like a woman in labor, experiencing the worst kind of pain, yet knowing that in a single moment, face-to-face with new life, everything changes. This is our hope: that present sufferings, no matter how severe, aren't even worthy of comparison to the glory that awaits us. We learn that we're not alone in our groaning—the Holy Spirit intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words, praying God's will when we can't find the words ourselves. The passage culminates in an unshakeable promise: nothing can separate us from God's love in Christ Jesus. Not tribulation, distress, persecution, or even death itself. We are more than conquerors, not because we avoid suffering, but because God is sovereignly working all things together for good for those who love Him. This isn't escapism or denial—it's anchored hope that transforms how we engage with a broken world.

Key Takeaways from the Sermon

1. Our pain is real, but it is not ultimate - The sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed.
2. All creation groans together - We're not alone in our suffering; the entire created order awaits redemption.
3. The Spirit helps us in our weakness - When we don't know what to pray, the Spirit intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.
4. God's story is bigger than our page - We can't see the full picture, but God is writing a redemptive story that will ultimately reveal His goodness.
5. We are called to be incarnational - Like Jesus, we're called to enter into suffering with others, bringing hope and the presence of Christ.

INTO THE SERMON

Romans 8:18–39

What stood out to you most from this weekend’s sermon?

- Was there a phrase, image, or idea that stayed with you?

The sermon emphasized that our pain is real, but not ultimate—and that God is doing something bigger than what we can see.

- Where did that challenge or reshape the way you view your current struggles or the suffering in the world?

Pastor Sam said, “The story God is writing is bigger than the page you’re living on.”

- How does that idea confront the way you typically interpret your circumstances?

INTO THE TEXT

Read Romans 8:18–39 together as a group.

- 1) Paul says that present sufferings are “not worth comparing” to future glory. What do you think he means by that? Why is that so hard to actually believe in the middle of real pain?
- 2) The passage describes all creation as “groaning” like childbirth. What does that image reveal about the purpose of suffering and what’s coming next?
- 3) Verses 26–27 say the Spirit helps us in our weakness and even prays for us. What does this teach us about prayer—especially when we don’t have the words?
- 4) In verse 28, Paul says God works all things for good. What do you think that does—and doesn’t—mean? How does the rest of the passage help clarify that?
- 5) The passage ends by declaring that nothing can separate us from the love of Christ. Why is that such a crucial truth in the context of suffering, fear, and uncertainty?

TAKE AWAY / NOW WHAT

- 1) The sermon pointed out that we often want clarity, control, or immediate relief. Where are you struggling to trust God's bigger story instead of your present circumstances?
- 2) When you experience pain or confusion, do you tend to move toward God or away from Him?
- 3) What would it look like to rely on the Spirit in those moments instead? The sermon challenged us not to avoid suffering, but to move toward people in it.
- 4) Who in your life right now might need you to show up with the love of Jesus? We are called to be people who "groan inwardly but move outwardly" on mission.
- 5) What is one practical step you can take this week to live that out—in your home, workplace, or community?

