

## Hope Check Response Guide

Romans 8:18-30

Bethany Assembly of God

3/22/2020

**You can persevere in hope.**

### **Romans 8:18-30**

<sup>18</sup> For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. <sup>19</sup> For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. <sup>20</sup> For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup> that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup> For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. <sup>23</sup> And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup> For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? <sup>25</sup> But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. <sup>26</sup> Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. <sup>27</sup> And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. <sup>28</sup> And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup> For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. <sup>30</sup> And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.”

- Have you ever been punched in the stomach? How did you react?
- Tell about a time when you had to persevere through pain or difficulty (i.e. working two jobs while going to school, basic training...).

### **I. You have the hope of a glorious future. vv. 18-25**

- Why does God allow suffering or “evil” in creation, like the coronavirus?

- Where do you find meaning for your life? Are your thoughts and actions consistent with what you claim to believe?
- C. S. Lewis wrote, “We can ignore even pleasure. But pain insists upon being attended to. God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains: it is his megaphone to rouse a deaf world.” How has God used suffering to wake you up?

## **II. You have the confidence of the Spirit’s intercession. vv. 26-27**

- Does knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for you give you confidence? Why?
- Are you praying for the things you are uncertain about? Do you pray “in the Spirit”?

## **III. You have the security of God’s sovereignty. vv. 28-30**

- Do you believe God works all things together for good for those who love Him? How have you witnessed this in your life?
- Do you think God is working in the current coronavirus situation? How might He be doing that?
- Do you think there are ways that God is working in the current situation that we simply can’t understand? Is that fair or just?

## **Conclusion**

Take a moment to express your confidence in God. Thank Him for His blessings, and for the current test. Ask Him to help you endure and be light in the middle of it.