

45-08-05.wpd -- Divine Hope for Human Destiny
 death, decay, resurrection, hope, salvation
 Rom 8:22-25
 The Gospel hope is a promise of restoration.

INTRODUCTION:

--The passage I'm about to read offers **divine hope for human destiny:**
Rom 8:22-25, *We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.*

--Just 3 weeks before writing this message, I preached a message that mentioned the **text** I just read [in fact, a woman I didn't usually see at EVCC, was present in that service, and only God knew that 3 weeks later, I would be writing this message for her memorial service.]

--The title of the message she heard me preach was "**Living Strong to the Finish.**" That's extremely significant for what was about to happen to her. It was a sermon about the Gospel "hope" that revolves around Christ's promised return to earth. In it, I shared 3 things about why the Christian's *hope* is worth waiting for: 1) Because **Jesus is coming back to Earth**; 2) Because, **at His return, He will bring this out-of-control world under divine control**, and 3) because **when He returns, He "will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body."**

--That's the *hope* I want to talk about briefly...

I. It's a Hope Shared by All Creation

- A. This passage says that all creation groans under the curse of decay and death, as it awaits its own liberation which will begin after the physical resurrection of humanity. (In other words, the destiny of physical creation is tied into our human destiny.)
- B. [People who talk to flowers aren't crazy. Scientific experiments have shown that speaking encouraging words to plants helps them grow. But if plants could talk, and we were telling them how pretty they are, I think they would answer back, "Oh, I'm nothing compared to what I'm going to be when the King gets back. Just wait and see!"] Resurrection Day will bring the faithful to life in "a new heaven and a new earth" Things we be changed *dramatically!*

TRANS: I call this a "*Gospel* hope" because *Gospel* means "good news." It's good news to know that death is not the end of the human story, but that our promised resurrection will mark the end of all the negatives in this present world and the surpassing of all the positives.

II. It's a Hope of Restoration

- A. When Jesus came the first time, He said His mission was "to seek and to save what was lost." (Luke 19:10) -- Much has been **broken and lost** through sin, but the Gospel promises restoration.... (of what?)
 1. Broken dreams -- Life has disappointments, but the real tough ones are the plans and projects we were sure would materialize... and never did. (God *dreams big*, and He created in His image with the capacity to *dream big*. If we have worthy dreams that were lost in time, they will be found in eternity.)
 2. Broken hearts -- Emotional pain is most often experienced in broken human relationships:
 - a. damaged feelings can become brittle and bitter, but one thing will be obvious in Heaven, that forgiveness is the only reason we can be there, and that forgiveness is the only way humans can live in peace (and in that sense, Heaven starts NOW!)
 - b. grief from separation at death is perhaps the most painful human emotion we can know, but Gospel hope tells us in Rev 21:4, He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.
- B. "*in this hope*," it says in **v.24** a says, "*we were saved*." This **hope for human destiny is divine**, because it's God hope. God's dream for us is bigger than anything we can dream for ourselves. His heart is broken when what He did for us through His Son on the Cross is taken lightly or rejected. He wants us restored, body, soul, and spirit, with resurrected bodies, with mended hearts and fulfilled dreams, and with a solid relationship with Himself for eternity.

CONCLUSION:

--**The Gospel hope is a promise of restoration.** That is a faith that you can draw upon for the rest of your own journey, as I believe _____ was drawing upon it as she finished hers.

Rom 8:22-25 (NIV) We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. {23} Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. {24} For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? {25} But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.