

**Future Hope:
December 31, 2017**

How does 2017 leave you?

Many feel we are living in an out of control world, with out of control problems!

The Bible speaks to us of a future hope, a hope that persists amidst chaos and calamity.

1) The Thesis: Present Suffering is not worth being compared to Future Glory! (18)

-Jesus' Message comes into a calamitous world

-The Apostles minister to an out of control society.

-Nevertheless, they still believe in a future hope and proclaim a future glory!

2) The Remedy: Revelation of the Children of God (19)

- Why is this the remedy?

-The ultimate revelation of God's Children means that His Kingdom has finally come

- Matthew 25:31-46

- For now, the children of God and children of the world are mixed together; their true revelation shows the final appearing of God's Kingdom

3) The Waiting: Present Groaning (20-23)

- The groaning of sin is twofold, reflected in the fall of people:

- Fall 1: *All of Creation*

- Gen. 3:17b-18

- Natural Disasters, Death, Disease, Pain, Hunger, etc.

- These are groaning from a diseased world!

-Fall 2: *Men and Women*

- Gen. 3:16-19

- One word: **Misery**

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-Our world's cynicism and anger is an expression of the tug of meaninglessness we feel.

-Where can hope be found?

4) The Solution: Hope in the Resurrection of Christ (24-25)

-Paul tells us the ultimate hope in our present groaning is in the Spirit and in our ultimate resurrection from the dead.

5) The Comfort: The Spirit's Work in Our Hearts (26-30)

-The Spirit is the one who transforms us, who expresses our yearnings to God.

-The Promise is that God works all things together for the ultimate good He has established.

-The Ultimate Good: **To Be Glorified**

Find your hope, not in politics, effort, or do-good behaviors, but in the coming of Christ's Kingdom, and our glory therein.

Bible Reading: Romans 8:18-30

¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God.

²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope

²¹ 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.

²² For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.

²³ And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first Fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees?

²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶ 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

²⁷ 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.

²⁸ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good for those who are called according to his purpose.

²⁹ 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.

³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

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