



SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Speaker: Chris Royalty // Sunday: November 12, 2023

- 1) Begin your time by briefly praying and asking the Holy Spirit to help you as you discuss and study.
- 2) Read Romans 8:18-25 together.
- 3) What stuck out to you as you read? Is there anything you don't understand? Is there anything you'd like to discuss?
- 4) Verse 18 compares the sufferings of our present age with the glory of our future with Jesus. As a group, think through these two realities. What are the sufferings of our present age? And what are the glories of the future? Make a list for both.
- 5) What does the Bible tell us about the future of the earth? What will the renewed earth be like? Try to list specific passages that talk about this.
- 6) The idea of "firstfruits" in the Bible is used to illustrate the idea of tasting something now that will later be revealed more fully. In verse 23, Paul says that our being indwelt by the Holy Spirit is a firstfruits of salvation. We are saved now, but one day we will be saved more fully. One day, God will transform us completely including our bodies.

In 1 Corinthians 15:20, the idea of firstfruits is used in a slightly different way. It says that Jesus is the firstfruits of the new creation. In this context, it means that Jesus resurrected body is the prototype of our future resurrected bodies. In light of this, how was Jesus different after the resurrection? How was his body different? And what does this mean about our future?

- 7) How has God personally brought you through suffering?
- 8) Verses 24 and 25 talk about how hope helps us when we are suffering. How does this work? How does hope help us through suffering?
- 9) End your time in prayer. Ask God to help you apply the things you've discussed and learned during this time of study.