

Sermon Text Discussion Notes 4/09/2023

Romans 8:23-25 - "The Resurrection of Jesus and the Hope of the New Creation" by Drew Hunter

Overview

We are continuing our series in Romans 8. This text helps focus us on how the historical reality of Jesus' resurrection changes our lives and was outlined as follows:

1. The Promise of Hope
2. The Confidence of Hope
3. The Experience of Hope

The promise of our hope is cosmic and personal. The confidence of our hope is from Jesus' resurrection and the gift of the Spirit. The experience of our hope can be cultivated even now in the midst of sorrow—as we eagerly wait for God Himself to renew all things.

Quotations

"It is a serious thing to... remember that the dullest and most uninteresting person you talk to may one day be a creature which, if you saw it now, you would be strongly tempted to worship, or else a horror and a corruption such as you now meet, if at all, only in a nightmare." "There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal. Nations, cultures, arts, civilization--these are mortal, and their life is to ours as the life of a gnat. But it is immortals whom we joke with, work with, marry, snub, and exploit--immortal horrors or everlasting splendors." -C.S. Lewis (*The Weight of Glory*)

"If someone never experienced spring, they wouldn't believe you. If they only knew the winter gray—they wouldn't believe just how beautiful the world will get." -Martin Luther

Discussion Questions

- 1.) Drew described how the word "firstfruits" is an agricultural metaphor that means two things, the beginning of the harvest and the confidence in its completion. Why is this being used in verse 23? How does this give us confidence in our hope?
- 2.) This week, practice deliberate consideration of your hope in Christ. Keep considering it, moment by moment. Turn your thoughts of your worst possible future into thoughts of your best actual future. Share your experience with a friend.
- 3.) This passage references how Christians suffer differently, with both groaning and eagerness. We are called to bear the burdens of the suffering of the world, but also balance that inwardly as we eagerly wait on the promises of the Lord. Towards which of these perspectives do you lean? How can you begin to cultivate the other to bring your perspective into this powerful balance?
- 4.) Read the C.S. Lewis quote above. How does this reality contrast with what the world holds dear? How would acknowledging this truth change the importance of our daily interactions with others?
- 5.) When you think of those currently experiencing pain or sorrow, what names come to your mind? How can you or your small group love, listen, encourage, and bless one or more of these people this week?