



Gospel Power: Gladness and Groaning

Small group discussion guide for the sermon on Sunday, August 3.

Scripture:

Romans 8:18-27

Sermon Series: Gospel Power

Pastor Jim Bradford

Key Takeaways

1. Christians live in the tension between gladness (from the gospel) and groaning (from present sufferings).
2. Hope is the bridge that connects our present struggles with future glory.
3. Creation, God's people, and even God's Spirit groan with hope for future redemption and intervention.

Discussion

1. How does Paul's perspective on present sufferings compared to future glory challenge or encourage you?
2. How does Christian hope differ from worldly optimism?
3. What do you do when you don't know what to pray?
4. Prayer is 'aligning with the will of a willing God.' How might this perspective shift your approach to prayer and your expectations of God's responses?
5. How can you balance living for eternity while still engaging meaningfully with your present realities and responsibilities?

Practical Applications

1. This week, practice saying "Thanks be to God" when faced with challenging situations, as the pastor did during his travel delays.
2. Set aside time to pray about a difficult situation, allowing yourself to "groan" before God if words are hard to find.
3. Take time to read and meditate on Romans 8:24. Remind yourself daily that hope comes from your eternity in Christ, not earthly things.