



STUDY GUIDE

RIGHT WITH GOD 7.19.2015

[set up]

What has been a recent headline that has grieved your heart?

What gives you hope despite the calamities we see and experience on earth?

[digging deeper]

Re-read our passage from this last weekend in Romans 8:18-28. Using this passage, how would you answer the following questions?

- What are some specific examples of creation “groaning” and being in “bondage” that come to your mind?
- Why do we see and experience such terrible atrocities on earth?
- Why has God allowed such great catastrophes on the earth?

What do we know about the relationship between sin and the condition of the world? How does Genesis 3:15-17 give additional insight?

What is God’s heart and hope for us as we endure hardship on earth waiting for the restoration of all things? (See also 2 Cor. 4:16-18)

How does knowing that you are a child of God and having the understanding of what that means for your future help us have faith and endurance in this life? (See also Gal. 4:6-7; Eph. 1:13-14; and Romans 8:14-17)

Look again at Romans 8:26-27. Pastor and theologian Warren Wiersbe says, *“Today the Holy Spirit groans with us and feels the burdens of our weaknesses and suffering. But the Spirit does more than groan. He prays for us in His groaning so that we might be led into the will of God. We do not always know God’s will. We do not always know how to pray, but the Spirit intercedes so that we might live in the will of God in spite of suffering. The Spirit ‘shares the burden’”* (Be Right, 103).

Have you ever experienced a time where you have sensed that the Holy Spirit was groaning on your behalf and helping you to express your heart and prayers to the Father?

Oftentimes Romans 8:28 is misused or misinterpreted. Can you give an example of an incorrect and correct application of this passage?

[living it out]

How has this time in God's Word given you strength and endurance for a current trial, situation, or source of discouragement?

How can you let last weekend's message and this time today guide your heart and mind as you are constantly bombarded by headlines that remind us of the temporary and fallen state of our world?

Is there someone you can think of that might need you to take this message of hope to and share with them in the midst of their discouragement?

Close this time in prayer, laying before the Lord the things that are heavy on your heart. Don't forget to ask the Holy Spirit to guide you in this time of prayer so that you may pray according to God's will.

For extra study this week, here are two links with multiple messages from two very gifted men teaching very "meaty" messages on these passages in Romans and a good link to general answers to "why God allows bad things" by Got Questions.

John Piper - <http://www.desiringgod.org/sermons/by-scripture/romans/8>

Martyn Lloyd-Jones - <http://www.mljtrust.org/collections/book-of-romans/8/?page=4>

Got Questions - <http://www.gotquestions.org/natural-disasters.html>