

BEYOND MEASURE – PART 3: HOPE SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2020

Hope, by definition, requires uncertainty. If I already have it, I don't have to hope for it. One modern researcher on hope puts it like this – We live in time, standing here at point A but always moving into the future toward point B. Along the way, we have dreams and maybe even goals for the future – finding that special someone, a great job or maybe even the chance to be in charge of the remote control for an evening. But then challenges come that impede the pursuit of our dreams or accomplishment of our goals. Some challenges are minor irritations while others are major disruptions. And sometimes we see a drop in our level of hope – sometimes a minor drop and sometimes a major drop. What we need to know and hold on to is that hope is not based on circumstances. Rather, hope has to be sourced in something (or maybe someone) beyond our circumstances.

READ ROMANS 8:18-28

- How would you describe or define hope?
- In what ways do “present sufferings” impact your capacity to hope?
- Why is it so challenging to see “present sufferings” in the context of “glory that will be revealed in us”?
- What perception do we typically hold of people who are “groaners”?
- What do you think it means that the whole creation has been groaning up to the present time?
- What might Paul mean when he writes about eagerly awaiting our adoption?
- How might adoption into God’s family save us from (or lead to greater hope in) present sufferings?
- What steps has God taken to fix what’s broken in the world and provide the path to restore relationship with him?
- Why is hope that is seen no hope at all?
- How would you describe your ability to wait patiently for what you do not have?
- Is there something you are waiting patiently for with hope? What role do you see God playing in what you are waiting for?
- What next step will you take to take responsibility for and invite God into your hoping?

HOPE KEEPS US GOING BEYOND MEASURE