

An Impervious Joy



Big Idea Goal

That Mercy Hill Church would be made new as we follow the One who is making all things new!



Sermon Text

Romans 8:28-30



Big Idea

Even as we are guaranteed to suffer, we have more cause to truly rejoice for *God works all things together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose*. And that good is Conformity to the Image of Christ!

Life's Guarantee

We will suffer on this side of eternity. It is a guarantee for those following Christ. Yet Jesus and the apostles speak of a joy that is impregnable. Is this true or simple optimism? What is this Joy? How do I apprehend this Joy? How do I fight for Joy?

All Things - Romans 8:28

All things happen to Christians - the good, the bad, the ugly, the beautiful and everything else in between. Jesus didn't suffer so you do not suffer. Jesus suffered so that when you suffer you become like him. This is the 1st component of Joy - all things turn out for GOOD!

The Good That Can Never Be Lost - Romans 8:29

You are not promised better life circumstances (financial security, marriage, kids, career fulfillment, etc.). What you are promised is Conformity to Christ! This is the GOOD that can never be lost (2nd component of Joy).

The Best Is Yet To Come - Romans 8:30

Shall not the Judge of the Earth do right (Gen 18:25). For God to do right, as the Just and Righteous Judge, he must condemn us...because of our sins. Yet in love, he provided a spotless Lamb, and so became our Justifier! Therefore, our end is GLORY! And the final component of our Joy

Practical Application

We lay hold on this joy through meditation on the person of Christ - put another way, meditation on the Word! ...Temptations are too relentless. Doubt is too frequent. Satan is too active. Tribulations are too heavy. Conflicts are too many. Emotions are too volatile. Perplexities are too difficult [John Piper]. **Therefore we need to preach the Word to ourselves EVERY DAY!**



Homework

- Pick a passage that depicts your relationship with God or what you are longing for in this season. Examples are James 4:1-10 (Desire), Ps 139 (Identity), Romans 8:31-39 (Joy), Psalm 42 & 63 (Longing for God), Phil 2:1-11 (Humility), etc.
- Memorize and **meditate** deeply on it. Pray with it, recite it out loud, sing it...do whatever helps you make it take root in your life, where it becomes your companion
- Do the above, with your chosen passage of scripture, for at least a month.
- Journal often (perhaps everyday) about what God might be saying to you
- Talk about it with trusted friends