

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: Turning Hurts into Hallelujahs

SERMON REFERENCE: Romans 8

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) Instead of a “bill of rights,” the book of Romans contains the “gifts of grace.”
 - i) Rights are for people who think they own something.
 - ii) We own nothing but judgment.
 - (1) But, thankfully, God has given us His grace and the gifts of grace.
- b) God’s grace and the resurrection of the Lord Jesus will turn every hurt into a hallelujah.
- c) People everywhere are hurting.
 - i) There’s a heartache on every pew.
 - ii) There’s no home without its hush.
- d) Romans 8:11, 18
 - i) “Quicken your mortal bodies” means that He will give life to our dying flesh.
 - ii) “Reckon” is a bookkeeping term that means that the Apostle Paul has been doing some figuring.
 - iii) It is Easter that turns every hurt into a hallelujah.
 - (1) It is Easter that turns every tear into a pearl.
 - (2) It is Easter that turn every midnight into a sunrise and every Calvary to a resurrection.
 - iv) In this passage, the Apostle Paul says that if the Holy Spirit of God (the same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead) dwells in us, then the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that shall be revealed in us.
- e) There are several words that we will look at in today’s message as we think about Easter.

2) THE GUILT THAT WE EXPRESS (ROMANS 8:1-3)

- a) Romans 8:1-2
 - i) Condemnation, flesh, sin and death are descriptions of the world today.
 - ii) We are living lives according to the flesh, not the Spirit, and we find ourselves under the law of sin and death.
 - (1) Romans 6:23
 - (2) Ezekiel 18:20
- b) What about this thing called sin?
 - i) For many people who are not believers in Christ, their problem is not a scientific problem.
 - (1) They’re not wrestling with ideas such as evolution or creation.
 - ii) Instead, their problem is history.
 - (1) They question that if there is a God and if God is a good God, then why do we have sin and suffering?
 - (2) Their argument is that if there is a God, then He would be the author of everything.
 - (a) Evil is something, so then God would be the author of evil.

- (3) Therefore, they reason that God must not be a good God, if He is a God at all.
 - (a) But this is not straight thinking.
 - iii) The truth of the matter is that God is the author of everything.
 - (1) God made everything perfect.
 - (2) God made man perfectly free.
 - (a) Man's free will is the origin of evil.
 - (b) God did not create evil; He created perfection, and He made man perfectly free.
 - (c) Freedom, therefore, gave rise to this evil.
 - (i) This is what makes us moral creatures.
 - iv) If God had made us to where we couldn't sin, then He could have no more fellowship with us than we could have with any inanimate object.
 - (1) God made us moral creatures.
 - v) Love is the highest good, and God wants us to love Him.
 - (1) Matthew 22:37-38
 - (2) Mark 12:30
 - vi) But forced love is a contradiction in terms.
 - (1) Forced love is not love at all.
 - (2) In order to love, we must be free to love and to choose to love.
 - vii) In order to choose to love, we must be able to choose not to love.
 - (1) So, God gave us perfect choice.
 - (2) Adam chose in the Garden of Eden (and the sons of Adam have chosen after him) to sin.
 - (a) This is where the heartache and pain come from.
 - c) Why doesn't God just destroy evil?
 - i) Why doesn't God just obliterate the devil and cause all sin to be eradicated?
 - (1) Why doesn't God take away the curse from nature?
 - (2) Why doesn't God make it impossible for people to sin?
 - ii) If God were to destroy evil, then He would destroy every opportunity for choice.
 - (1) If God were to destroy every opportunity for choice, then He would destroy every opportunity for love.
 - (a) Therefore, God would destroy the highest good.
 - iii) Therefore, for God to destroy evil would be evil.
 - d) God does not destroy evil; God defeats evil.
 - i) God defeats evil through Calvary and the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
 - e) Romans 8:18
 - i) God is not finished yet.
- 3) THE GRACE THAT WE EXPERIENCE (ROMANS 8:1-4)
- a) Romans 8:1-4
 - b) There is no more condemnation for sin.

- i) Romans 8:1
 - (1) There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.
 - ii) God wants us to be saved and has given us many illustrations of salvation.
 - (1) One illustration of salvation is Noah's ark.
 - (a) The Bible teaches that Noah's ark is an illustration, a type, of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - (i) 1 Peter 3:20-22
 - (2) To know what it means to be "in Christ Jesus," we need to know what it was for Noah to be in the ark.
 - (a) God was going to judge the world, and He told Noah and his family to come into the ark.
 - (b) The Bible says that God shut the door.
 - (i) Genesis 7:16
 - (c) The ark was waterproof.
 - (i) God told Noah to put pitch on the inside and outside of the ark.
 - 1. Genesis 6:14
 - 2. Pitch was a black, sticky substance.
 - (ii) Water was an emblem and a symbol of judgment.
 - (iii) Not one drop of water could come through that pitch.
 - 1. The Hebrew word for pitch is exactly the same word that is translated "atonement" when Christ died on the cross.
 - 2. Not one drop of judgment can come through that atonement.
 - (3) We are in Christ as Noah was in the ark.
 - (a) The storms of God's wrath beat upon the Lord Jesus and upon the ark.
 - (i) But we are on the inside, and not one drop of judgment can come through that atonement.
 - iii) Because we are in Christ, there is no more condemnation for sin.
 - c) There is no more control of sin.
 - i) Romans 8:2
 - (1) We are sinners by birth, by nature and by choice.
 - (a) There is a downward pull on us that the Bible calls the law of sin and death.
 - (2) Because of the empty tomb, the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made us free from the law of sin and death.
- 4) THE GROANS THAT WE ENDURE (ROMANS 8:18-22)
- a) Romans 8:18-22
 - i) The word "creature" in this passage literally means "creation."
 - (1) It is referring to all nature.
 - ii) "Vanity" in this passage means that it is not living up to its original intention.
 - b) There is the groaning of creation.

- i) Romans 8:22
 - (1) If we do not understand this verse, then we will stumble in our Christian walk.
- ii) The whole creation groans.
 - (1) This means pain, moan, groan, crying, dying and sighing.
 - (2) Decay and corruption are on everything in creation, including ourselves.
 - (a) What Darwin called the survival of the fittest is really the bondage of corruption.
- iii) But there is a better time coming.
 - (1) All of creation is waiting for the manifestations of the sons of God.
 - (a) Romans 8:19
- iv) The worst thing that could happen would be for a sinful creature to live in paradise.
 - (1) So, God took Adam out of paradise and put him in a world that has the curse of sin upon it.
 - (a) Genesis 3:17-19
 - (2) God wanted Adam to see that there's something deadly wrong in this world.
 - (a) All of the pain and sorrow that we see in creation is the fever of the infection, which is sin.
 - (i) If we didn't have a fever, then we wouldn't know that we had an infection.
 - (ii) The fever is a symptom of the deeper problem.
- v) God didn't make this world with the pain and groaning.
 - (a) He made the world perfect.
- c) There is the groaning of the Christian.
 - i) Romans 8:23
 - ii) Our bodies are not yet redeemed.
 - (1) Our spirit is redeemed, but the body is not yet redeemed.
 - (2) We are waiting for the promise of Easter.
 - iii) We live in a body that has the curse of sin in it; therefore, we are not immune to suffering.
 - iv) Why do we have suffering in the world?
 - (1) We live in a creation that has a curse upon it.
 - (a) Matthew 5:45
 - (b) That's the way nature is; that's where we live.
 - (2) We live with other sinners.
 - (a) There are other people in this world who would harm us.
 - (b) There are people around us who make choices.
 - (3) We live in bodies that have the curse of sin upon them.
 - (a) Our bodies are not yet redeemed.
 - (b) We are sons and daughters of Adam, so we were born out of a polluted gene pool.

- (i) Sooner or later, people get sick.
 - (c) Romans 8:18
 - (4) We still choose to do wrong, and God has to chastise us.
 - (a) Psalm 119:67
 - (b) Hebrews 12:6
 - (5) There are also mysterious reasons why people suffer.
 - d) There are the groanings of the Comforter.
 - i) Romans 8:26
 - (1) The Greek word for “Comforter” means someone who is called alongside of you, like a doctor alongside a sick bed, like a fireman alongside a fire, or like a lawyer alongside a person who is accused.
 - (2) John 14:16
 - ii) The Holy Spirit comes alongside us in all of our sorrow.
 - (1) One Bible translation of Romans 8:26 states that His Spirit within us is actually praying for us in those agonizing longings which can never find words.
 - (2) When we hurt so much that we can’t even pray and all we can do is groan, the Holy Spirit groans with us and prays for us.
 - iii) The Holy Spirit makes intercession for us, and the Lord Jesus is on the throne making intercession for us.
- 5) THE GLORY THAT WE EXPECT (ROMANS 8:18)
 - a) We have been prepared for glory.
 - i) We’ve been prepared for glory by the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
 - (1) That is the Gospel.
 - ii) We’re not prepared by simply trying to be better people.
 - (1) Salvation doesn’t come by learning lessons from the life of Christ but by receiving life from the death of Christ.
 - b) We are predestined for glory.
 - i) Romans 8:28-30
 - (1) The author puts it in the past tense; it’s as good as done.
 - (2) “Predestined” means “settled.”
 - ii) In the heart and mind of God, it is settled.
 - iii) What has been decreed in Heaven cannot be annulled by Hell or by humanity.
 - iv) We are predestined for glory by the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
 - c) We are preserved for glory.
 - i) Romans 8:31-32
 - (1) If God loved us enough to give us Jesus, then He’ll give anything else we need.
 - ii) Romans 8:33-35, 37
 - (1) There is nothing that can condemn us.

- (2) No foe can conquer us, and no fault can condemn us.
- (3) The seven enemies that Paul mentions have been the enemies of Christians from time immemorial.
 - (a) Paul had experienced each of these seven enemies.
 - (i) He said that they can't separate us; all they can do is draw us closer.
 - iii) No foe can condemn us because of Easter.
 - iv) No fear can conquer us because of Easter.
 - v) No fault can condemn us because of Easter.
- d) Romans 8:38-39

6) CONCLUSION

- a) In Roman times when a person was judged guilty of a crime, that person was put into prison, and the list of crimes he had committed was nailed to the prison door.
 - i) When that person had paid for his crimes against the state, the judge would take that certificate of debt and write "Tetelestai" across the top of it.
 - (1) In the Greek language, "tetelestai" means "paid in full."
 - ii) This document was then handed back to the prisoner.
 - iii) If anyone ever tried to bring the prisoner into double jeopardy, he could show that certificate of debt on which was written "paid in full."
- b) Jesus Christ took our sins to the cross.
 - i) Jesus took what was against us and nailed it to His cross.
 - ii) When He bowed His head and died, He said, "It is finished;" "Paid in full."
 - (1) This is the same Greek word, "tetalestai."
 - (2) John 19:30
 - iii) It is paid in full.
 - (1) No foe can condemn us.
 - (2) No fear need control us.
 - (3) No fault can separate us.
 - (a) Romans 8:18
- c) If God destroyed evil, then we wouldn't have a choice.
 - i) Instead, He defeats evil with the cross and the resurrection.
- d) Do you have a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- e) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16