



Easter is Universal and Personal

Romans 8:18-25

April 17, 2022

Pastor Mickey Klink

Introduction

In this sermon we explore how Easter celebrates the life and ministry of Jesus and “the gospel.”

The Text: Romans 8:18-25

¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. ²³ And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

1) Easter celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ and therefore the turning-point of God’s saving activity in the world.

- (1) **Incarnation** – In Jesus, God comes to a sinful and needy world (**Separation**).
- (2) **Perfect Life** – Jesus lived the obedient life we failed to live before God (**Sin**).
- (3) **Sacrificial Death** – Jesus died the atoning death that paid the penalty for our sins (**Salvation**).
- (4) **Resurrection** – Jesus defeats the effects of sin and death and initiates the new creation (**Surety**).
- (5) **Ascension** – Jesus now reigns, ministers by his Spirit, and will perfect all things (**Supremacy**).

2) The Gospel is both Universal and Personal (Romans 8:18-25).

The Gospel is **Universal** (vv. 18-22)



With **purpose** God **has created** his world.
In **love** God **is redeeming** his world.
With **supremacy** God **will perfect** his world.

The Gospel is **Personal** (vv. 23-25)



With **purpose** God **has created** every person.
In **love** God **is redeeming** his people.
With **supremacy** God **will perfect** his people.

Response

On Easter Sunday, Christians celebrate the truth of the Gospel – the universal and personal work of Jesus.

Sunday Text Questions for Easter

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- 1) Starter Question: What is the basis for a Christian's "hope?"
- 2) Read the text aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.
- 3) How can Paul say in v. 18 that our present sufferings "are not worth comparing" to the glory that is to be revealed?
- 4) Why does Paul describe the sufferings of the physical creation in vv. 19-22, and how is creation "subjected to futility" and in "bondage?"
- 5) Why might it be significant that Paul does not merely speak of the future redemption of God's people but also the future redemption of God's creation?
- 6) What does it mean to "have the first fruits of the Spirit" (v. 23), and how does this give the Christian a foundation and hope in the midst of suffering?
- 7) What should the phrase, "the redemption of our bodies" (v. 23), teach us about the physical reality of the new creation?
- 8) How might this passage help Christians make room in their lives for the practice of lament?
- 9) How does the celebration of Easter and the resurrection of Jesus guarantee that our present sufferings will one day be changed to incomparable glory?
- 10) What is a present suffering in your life right now that needs to be infused with the hope discussed in this passage?

Further study this week: Passages on the resurrection of Jesus: Matthew 28 (Mon); Mark 16 (Tues); Luke 24 (Wed); John 20 (Thurs); 1 Corinthians 15 (Fri).