

FORGIVEN & FREE



from Romans, a letter in the Bible

Through this series we'll be working our way through the Biblical letter of Romans. We'll explore themes of forgiveness, freedom, hope and grace.

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Title: Something strange about suffering

Date: 21st May 2023

Speaker: Marcus

Site: City Centre / Mile Cross

Bible reference: Romans 5:1-11

Overview

Suffering is part of life for all of us living in this fallen world and the Bible is not silent about it. In Romans 5, however, we find one of the most strange, surprising and perhaps even shocking things God says about suffering: "Suffering produces...hope."

Insert Section Heading

- Why might you or someone else reading this passage find it strange and surprising that suffering could produce hope? (we might think suffering produces despair, disbelief etc..)
- According to this passage, in what way does suffering produce hope? (through a process - suffering produces endurance...character...hope...love)
- Paul seems to think that they already knew that suffering produces endurance and endurance character and character hope, and that they had experienced God's love. What have you experienced when you have suffered?
- What difference does hope make when we are suffering?
- What questions are raised in our minds when we experience suffering? (Why? Can Jesus be trusted? Does Jesus love me? Will Jesus help me, and how? Is Jesus really worth it?...)
- How can we answer some of our questions in the light of what God says in his word? (John 16:33; Matt 16:24; Act 14:22; Rom 5:6-8; John 14:14; Matt 6:11; Philipp 4:6; Matt 28:20; John 14:18; James 1:2-3; Heb 10:25; Acts 5:41; Matt 5:11; Philipp 3:7-8...)