

**Nov 20/22 – Small Group Questions -
Romans 8:28-39 “From Platitude to Purpose”**

Romans 8:28 is one of the most beloved promises in the bible, a promise that at times is taken out of its context and applied in ways that it was never intended to be applied. It is imperative then that we hear the promise in its context. First **read Romans 8:17-27** and then answer the following question...

1. It seems Paul is inviting us to reflect. On the one hand we have creation, marred as it is by sin, death, injustice. On the other hand, we have the glory of new creation, shot through with the glory, beauty, goodness, and justice of the living God. In the gap between what is and what will be the follower of Jesus is invited to lament, grieve, and yearn for the glory of new creation. What would this kind of posture look like practically?

Read Romans 8:28-39

2. (28) What is the “good” that is being promised here?
3. (28) The Greek word for work together is the word synergeo from which we get the word synergy. It is normally translated work together, work with, cooperate with – rendering the promise “God works all things for good with those who love him”. Read this way what does this promise invite the follower of Jesus to?
4. (28-31) Why can Paul use the past tense “glorified” when speaking of followers of Jesus? What does this communicate about the certainty that salvation will come to its completion in new creation?
5. (31-35) Paul closes this text with five questions each intended to build our confidence in the promise he has articulated. How does each answer uniquely build confidence in the promise of 8:28? Where is ultimate assurance to be located?

Out of this passage Tim articulated that the final dynamic of discipleship are four core convictions that must be held together with equal conviction and passion so that they are held in balance. The four convictions are 1. We are called in light of the gap between what is and what will be to grieve, lament, and yearn for new creation. 2. We are to be assured that Jesus is coming again to make everything new. 3. We are loved by God in Jesus beyond imagining. 4. We are to pick up our purpose to be agents, ambassadors, citizens of new creation.

6. Which of these convictions do you believe as a church we need to lean into? Which do you personally need to lean into so that they come into balance, into equilibrium?