

THE CONCEALING OF HOPE

Text: Romans 8:18-25

Key Word: Hope

Key Thought: Hope is Often Concealed in Difficult Surroundings

Hope is an incredible topic especially at this time of year. Not only is it the young who seem to live in the life concealed in hope, it also affects those who are growing older.

- **** 1. “They tell us your getting old when you’re sitting in a rocker and you cannot get it started.”
2. “You know your into middle-aged when you realize that caution is the only thing you care to exercise.” ******

From the Internet

What Are a Few Ways That Hope Is Concealed from Us?

I. IT IS CONCEALED IN CREATION (Romans 8:18-22)

II. IT IS CONCEALED IN ANTICIPATION (Romans 8:23)

III. IT IS CONCEALED IN SALVATION (Romans 8:24,25)

I. IT IS CONCEALED IN CREATION (Romans 8:18-22)

We’re told from the history books that John Calvin died with Romans 8:18 on his lips, yet he died before he had an opportunity to finish the verse.

A. Through our Present Suffering

We have used every means possible to reduce the amount of suffering we face. New drugs and devices are being developed every day. New mattresses and pillows that insure the buyer of a restful sleep have taken over the market. People will spend thousands of dollars to illuminate the slightest pain. Companies like “*Nikken*” claim to use a magnetic field to increase blood circulation. Arthritic medications are constantly being upgraded. New medical procedures have often eliminated the need to make a large incisions calling it micro-surgery. Biologists are searching for a gene that they believe will reduce or eliminate aging, suffering, or even death.

Ironically at the same time, we have so changed God’s creation that literally millions are suffering in ways that could be easily and totally eliminated.

I. IT IS CONCEALED IN CREATION (Romans 8:18-22) (Contd.)

A. Through our Present Suffering (Contd.)

We are destroying the creation that God gave us at an alarming rate. Many species have become extinct and many more are on the verge of extinction. **Creation is groaning with deep suffering. Hope is being concealed because of the pitiful state of God's creation.**

“For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice . . .”

Romans 8:19

B. Through our Future Glory

19. The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed . . .

20. . . . in hope

21. that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God.”

Romans 8:19b, 20

There are many Scriptures that attest to the fact that we will share in the glory of God when He returns. **Ironically His suffering became the very vehicle that was used to ensure that there will be a future glory for us.**

“When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.”

Colossians 3:4

“In bringing in many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering.”

Hebrews 2:10

*“**For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.**”*

II Corinthians 4:17

II. IT IS CONCEALED IN ANTICIPATION (Romans 8:23)

A. Through Outward Impossibilities

The hope that Paul speaks of is concealed in **Anticipation not Frustration**. **Anticipation is the very lifeline of hope**. It draws on past experiences in order to ensure us that God will not fail. It is that hope that was grounded in the heart of **Moses** when he stood between the Egyptian army and the Red Sea (Exodus 14). It was that hope that kept **Daniel** safe in the midst of the lion's den (Daniel 6). It was that hope that made the heart of **Jeremiah** the prophet strong as he was concealed in a cistern for speaking the truth to King Zedekiah (Jeremiah 38).

*** Years ago an S – 4 submarine was rammed by a ship off the coast of Massachusetts. It sank immediately. The entire crew was trapped into a prison house of death. Every effort was made to rescue the crew, but all ultimately failed.

Near the end of the ordeal, a deep sea diver, who was doing everything in his power to find a way for the crew's release, thought he heard a tapping on the steel wall of the sunken sub. He placed his helmet up against the side of the vessel and he realized it was Morse Code.

He attached himself to the side and he spelled out in his mind the message being tapped from within. It was repeating the same question. The question was, from within: **“Is . . . There . . . Any . . . Hope?”**

Ben Patterson
“The Grand Essentials”
Charles R.. Swindoll
“The Tale of the Tardy Oxcart”
p. 275

“The believer has the right as sons, but not the realization.”

“Outlined Studies in Romans”
Carl Ratz
p. 113

B. Through Inward Improbabilities

Every believer needs to express the hope that God has given them in spite of the problems they face. We need to **groan inwardly** but also **glow outwardly**. It is time to let our face show what our heart knows. Anticipation should be written all over our expressions. Lets not **conceal hope** but rather **reveal hope**. God doesn't normally remove us from trouble. He rather supports us during and through the trouble.

II. IT IS CONCEALED IN ANTICIPATION (Romans 8:23) (Contd.)

B. Through Inward Improbabilities (Contd.)

It doesn't make sense to most people that God would want to call us His sons and daughters. Many people have never come to accept the Lord as their personal Saviour and therefore they cannot feel close to Him. Hope is able to help us understand that we can be assured of our full acceptance by Jesus Christ. We have already been accepted but we also find that many of the promises of God become clouded out in everyday living.

We are already a child of God - yet we do not see the total fulfilment of all God has for us as His children. Theologians call this the "*Already - Not Yet*" paradox. Inwardly we know it is true even though we don't always see the actual results outwardly. Hope is able to bring the truth to the surface of our lives.

"Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groaning inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies."

Romans 8:23

III. IT IS CONCEALED IN SALVATION (Romans 8:24,25)

*"**For in this hope we are saved.** But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has?
25. But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently."*

Romans 8:24,25

There are many wonderful things that a believer in Christ can still hope toward in full assurance that they will happen.

1. **Victory over the grave** – *I Corinthians 15:51-57*
2. **The Rapture of the Church** – *I Thessalonians 4:15-17*
3. **The Return of our LORD and Saviour** – *Philippians 3:20*
4. **That we Shall be like Jesus (eternally alive)** – *I John 3:2*

Hope is able to give us the strength to strive ahead for what we have accepted by faith and clearly written in the unchangeable Word of God. We often are unfortunately affected by our society when it comes to hope. If our bread gets stuck in the toaster and we have to start over, we can become **annoyed**. If the fast food drive-through is temporarily closed down, we can become **agitated**. If our phone call is put on hold, we can become **aggravated**.

III. IT IS CONCEALED IN SALVATION (Romans 8:24,25)

Some church leaders have taught that we can have anything we want when we want it. I am of the opinion that this is what makes for a spoiled child. Yet some Christians want all the pie in the sky NOW. They are told they can get it. They are told God owes it to them. They believe that there should never be any trouble or trial or pain or suffering or financial problems or relationship difficulties now that they are saved.

What we should have been told is that salvation will place within our heart a deep-seated hope that waits patiently for the fulfilment of our salvation when Christ returns. Salvation is . . .

1. **Past Tense** - We have been saved
2. **Present Tense** - We are being saved
3. **Future Tense** - We shall be saved.

I really am thankful that hope is concealed in certain ways from us. I know that there is something better for the future. One day everything that is **concealed** will be **revealed**.

C:\My Documents\WPWin(2021)\Sermons.21\Hope\Romans 8_18.25.wpd

Date: Dec 5/21

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30 Am

Song: You Keep Hope Alive - G

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A. Through our Present Suffering *Romans 8:19*

B. Through our Future Glory *Romans 8:19b, 20; Colossians 3:4; Hebrews 2:10; II Corinthians 4:17*

II. IT IS CONCEALED IN ANTICIPATION (8:23)

A. Through Outward Impossibilities

B. Through Inward Improbabilities

III. IT IS CONCEALED IN SALVATION (8:24,25)

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