

## Our troubled & troubling world

Wars

Injustice that endures

Abuse or misuse of power

Natural disasters

Weakness of body, mind, soul

Divisions

Persecution

And Christians often seem not to do much better...

→ We look for answers and for hope

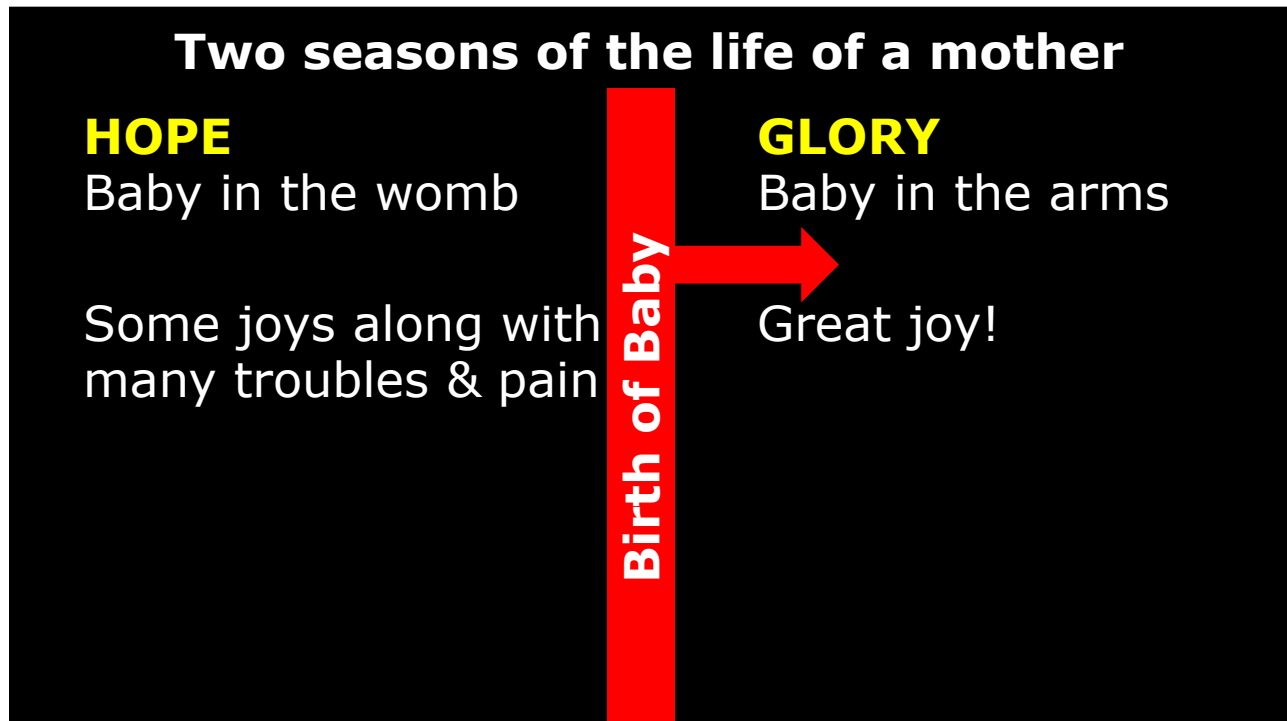
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**Alive in Hope**  
**Romans 8:18-39**

[ref.ly/Ro8;niv](https://ref.ly/Ro8;niv)



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## Two seasons of the life of a Christian

### HOPE

This life

Many joys  
along with  
many troubles  
"Present sufferings"

Death, or Jesus' return

### GLORY

Being with Christ

Great joy!  
Without the troubles

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## Romans 8:18-21

<sup>18</sup> I consider that our **present sufferings** are not worth comparing with the **glory** that will be revealed in us. <sup>19</sup> For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. <sup>20</sup> For the creation was subjected to **frustration**, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup> that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the **freedom and glory** of the children of God.

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## Romans 8:22-25

<sup>22</sup> We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. <sup>23</sup> Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup> For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? <sup>25</sup> But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

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## Romans 8:26-27

<sup>26</sup> In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. <sup>27</sup> And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.

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## Romans 8:28-30

<sup>28</sup> And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him who have been called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup> For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. <sup>30</sup> And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

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## Romans 8:31-34

<sup>31</sup> What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? <sup>33</sup> Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup> Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

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## Romans 8:35-36

<sup>35</sup> Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?  
 Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or  
 nakedness or danger or sword? <sup>36</sup> As it is written:

“For your sake we face death all day long;  
 we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

So many troubles come  
 Yet they can't stop God's love  
 It is the age of HOPE, not sight or glory

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## Romans 8:37-39

<sup>37</sup> No, in all these things we are  
 more than conquerors through him who loved us.

<sup>38</sup> For I am convinced that  
 neither death nor life, **Merism: extremes**  
 neither angels nor demons, **include all between**  
 neither the present nor the future,  
 nor any powers,

<sup>39</sup> neither height nor depth,  
 nor anything else in all creation,  
 will be able to separate us from the love of God that  
 is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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## Two Seasons of Life of a Christian

### HOPE

This life

Many joys  
along with many  
troubles

"Present sufferings"

God relentlessly uses  
**EVERYTHING** now to  
increase joy in **GLORY**

Death, or Jesus' return

### GLORY

Being with Christ

Great joy!  
Without the troubles

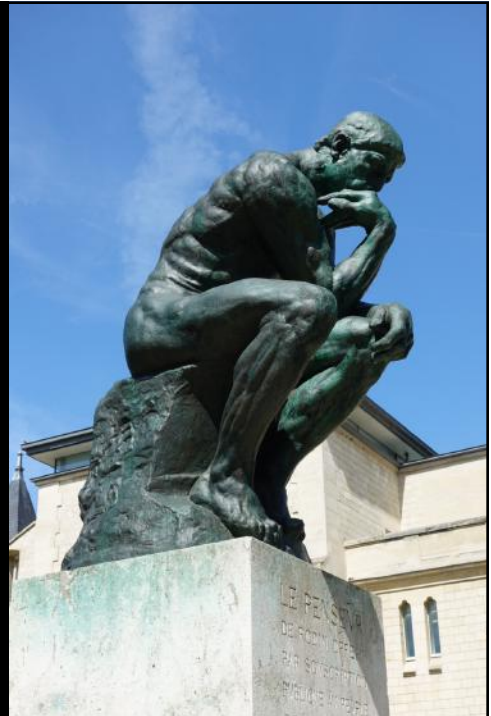
Hope that is seen  
is not hope  
Demands faith

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## Most traditional art

Pick the best materials,  
with a good vision,  
and enough skill  
to make something beautiful

By CrisNYCa - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0,  
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=94532194>



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## Scrapfest

Pick **the right junk**,  
with a good vision,  
and enough skill  
to make something beautiful  
out of **junk**



15

## God

Used **ALL the junk**

- Judas's betrayal
- Peter's denial
- Pilate's weakness
- Jewish leaders' jealousy
- Rome's cruelty
- Satan's evil

to show the glory of God



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## God

Uses ALL the junk in our world and in our lives

- trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword
- Paul's sinful past shows the amazing grace of God



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## God

Nothing at all can stop the active and relentless love of God for His people

- Sometimes He stops the junk
- Often He USES the junk
- This requires hope & faith



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## **This present age of HOPE**

Good and bad jumbled together

We are called to compassion and action

We know: all progress will be limited in this age

None of the bad can stop God's love

We have eager expectation for the age to come

**Will be replaced by the age of GLORY**

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The indwelling Spirit gives us **joy**,  
and his coming glory gives us **hope**,  
but the interim suspense gives us **pain**.

Until we are with Christ → joy, hope, and pain

When He returns → unbounded joy!

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## Two Seasons of Life of a Christian

### HOPE

This life

### GLORY

Being with Christ

Death, or Jesus' return



God relentlessly uses EVERYTHING now to increase joy in GLORY

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## Application

### 1) Set our HOPE on GLORY

- "we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies" *Romans 8:23*
- "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." *John 16:33*
- Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world." *John 18:36*
- **Remember: we live in the age of HOPE**

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## Application

- 1) Set our HOPE on GLORY
- 2) Live with great HOPE today
  - HOPE in God's unstoppable love in Christ
  - HOPE in God's power to use EVERYTHING to increase joy in GLORY
  - HOPE in the coming age of GLORY
  - HOPE gives courage in uncertainty and difficulty
  - HOPE empowers bold self-sacrifice and self-giving
  - For some, sacrifice is not imposed on us  
We must choose it, and it is commanded

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## Application

- 1) Set our HOPE on GLORY
- 2) Live with great HOPE today
- 3) Practice compassion and action, while pointing to GLORY
  - Holy Spirit is the 'firstfruits', promising full GLORY
  - Compassion and action are signs that point to full GLORY

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## Application

- 1) Set our HOPE on GLORY
  - 2) Live with great HOPE today
  - 3) Practice compassion and action,  
while pointing to GLORY
- Only for those who are in Christ

25

## Romans 8:28-30

<sup>28</sup> And we know that in all things God works for the good of those **who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.** <sup>29</sup> For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. <sup>30</sup> And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also **glorified.**

**“But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.” Romans 8:25**

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Christians should be the most **HOPE**-filled people!

**Because God relentlessly uses EVERYTHING now  
to increase joy in GLORY**

Even in frailty, struggle, and persecution

But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened." But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the **HOPE** that you have.

*1 Peter 3:14-15*