

Romans Refresh

Renewing Gospel-Centrality

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Gospel Summary:

God justifies the ungodly
by grace alone
through faith alone
in Christ alone
to God's glory alone

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Central Implication: "Hope"

- our justification is fully here in Christ, yet we do not experience it fully – *"already and not yet"*
- our present reality is one of suffering in a fallen, corrupted, death-reigning age

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Groanings of a Pandemic

1. As human beings we are subject to the death-reigning corruption of creation

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¹² Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned— (Romans 5:12)

²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. (Romans 8:20-22)

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Groanings of a Pandemic

1. As human beings we are subject to the death-reigning corruption of creation
 - diseases, disasters and death are the groans of creation yearning to be set free
 - God's children, subject to this corruption, also groan with anticipation of being set free

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Groanings of a Pandemic

2. As Christians we experience this corruption as purifying, not punitive
- God is governing all things according to His eternal purpose for us in Christ
 - our experience of the corruption of this age is designed for our spiritual, eternal good

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³And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance;
⁴and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; (Romans 5:3-4)

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Groanings of a Pandemic

- *What is God doing through this pandemic?*
- refining our faith, producing endurance and strengthening our hope

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