

Discussion Guide: Symphony of Sighs

September 7, 2003: “Symphony of Sighs” by Pastor Rich Vincent, College Park Church. Pastor Rich began his sermon on Romans 8:18-27 by quoting “I still haven’t found what I’m looking for” from the title of a hit song from U2’s album The Joshua Tree, and helped us see how this experience, depicted in the song, is common among Christians, but sometimes excused as sinful discontent, or idolatry of the heart. In reality, there is much more to come in the glory that will be revealed in us (v18), as the Apostle Paul challenges us to realize that...

1. All creation groans and longs for the day it is liberated from its bondage to decay and is brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God. (v19-22)
2. We ourselves groan inwardly, in our current suffering and frustration, as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. (v23-25)
3. In the same way, the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness by interceding for us in accordance with God’s will with groans that words cannot express. *v26-27)

Along our journey of faith, we experience frustrations, anxieties, longings, and sorrows, a “Symphony of Sighs”, because our desires for redemption are yet to be fully realized. But it will be worth it all on that great day of full redemption.

Discussion Guide

As you begin your discussion, pray for the Holy Spirit’s illumination as you read Romans 8:18-27 aloud together. As you meditate on this scripture passage...

1. Can you identify with Paul’s description of present sufferings and frustration? How about our future state on the day of our full redemption? (xRef Rev. 21).
2. In your experience, what are some fundamental differences between discontentment and groanings of the Spirit within you? Think about this in relation to your attitude...your degree of faith/belief at that moment...why you want what you long for.
3. How does this affect your personal prayer life?
4. Does the truth of this passage relieve you of unnecessary guilt that you’re carrying about a specific longing that you have? Please explain.
5. Have you had a time recently when you felt sad about not getting what you hoped for? Describe that time. How does the message help you evaluate that experience?
6. If you are content and absent of groans, why are you without any heartfelt longings?
7. What effect should knowing that the Holy Spirit is interceding for you, in accordance with God’s will, have on your prayers?