



LIFELINES *for* TOUGH TIMES

Romans 8:18-39

Dr. Mike Fabarez • Focal Point Radio Ministries • May 24 & 25, 2014 • Msg. 14-17 • Social Media: #Lifelines

18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. **19** For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. **20** For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope **21** that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. **22** For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. **23** And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ... **28** And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. **29** For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ... **35** Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? **36** As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." **37** No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. **38** For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, **39** nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (ESV)

1. Anticipate _____ (vv.18-23)

2. Trust _____ (vv.28-29)

3. Rely _____ (vv.35-39)

Application Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's sermon. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the point of today's study. It is also helpful when you are able to discuss your answers with others.

1. Read **John 16:33**. What are some of the repercussions for Christians who fail to grasp the reality of the second-to-last sentence in this verse? What about the last sentence of the verse?
2. Read **2 Corinthians 4:16-18**. What are some practical ways you can put this verse into practice?
3. Read **Genesis 50:20** and **Romans 5:3-4**. In what ways have you seen these kinds of effects in some of your past trials and seasons of suffering?
4. Read **John 10:27-30**. How does this truth change your perspective in the midst of a painful situation?
5. Read **Hebrews 4:16**. What sort of prayer requests should we be offering up to God when we suffer, besides the obvious and natural appeal for relief?

The CBC Bible Reading Schedule for this Week:

Go to ESV.org (Reading Plans: Through the Bible) for schedule prompts.

May 25th

1Chr.14-16 & Jn.9:24-41

May 26th

1Chr.17-19 & Jn.10:1-21

May 27th

1Chr.20-22 & Jn.10:22-42

May 28th

1Chr.23-25 & Jn.11:1-17

May 29th

1Chr.26-27 & Jn.11:18-46

May 30th

1Chr.28-29 & Jn.11:47-57

May 31st

2Chr.1-3 & Jn.12:1-19

June 1st

2Chr.4-6 & Jn.12:20-50

The following related sermons are also available for free as mp3 downloads or audio streaming on the Focal Point Website (FocalPointMinistries.org).

Msg. 10-15 – **Why Being Heavenly-Minded Does a World of Good**

Msg. 10-17 – **Discovering the Patience of Christian Hope**

Msg. 10-19 – **Looking for the Good when Things Go Bad**

Msg. 10-20 – **Reasons for Confidence No Matter What**

Msg. 10-21 – **Invariable Love in a Changing World**

Msg. 02-34 – **Why God Doesn't Make All Your New Years "Happy"**

Msg. 02-22 – 02-23 – **When Life Takes a Left Turn** (a seven-part series on serving together)

Here are some books which may assist you in a deeper study of the truths presented in today's sermon. While Pastor Mike cannot endorse every concept presented in each book, he does believe these resources will be helpful in profitably thinking through today's topic.

Alcorn, Randy. **Heaven**. Tyndale House Publishers, 2004.

Bailey, Robert W. **Ministering to the Grieving**. Zondervan, 1976.

Carson, D. A. **How Long, O Lord? Reflections on Suffering & Evil**. Baker Books, 1990.

Fabarez, Mike. **Lifelines for Tough Times: God's Presence and Help When You Hurt**. Harvest House, 2014.

Feinberg, John A. **Deceived by God? A Journey Through Suffering**. Crossway Books, 1997.

Hutchison, John. **Thinking Right When Things Go Wrong: Biblical Wisdom for Surviving Tough Times**. Kregel, 2005.

Lewis, C. S. **A Grief Observed**. Reprint. HarperOne, 2001

_____. **The Problem of Pain**. Macmillan Publishing, 1962.

Lutz, Susan. **Thankfulness: Even When It Hurts**. P & R, 2002.

Mayhue, Richard. **The Healing Promise: Is It Always God's Will to Heal?** Mentor Books, 1997.

Robinson, Haddon. **Grief: Comfort for Those Who Grieve and Those Who Want to Help**. Discovery House, 2009.

Stowell, Joseph. **Eternity: Reclaiming a Passion for What Endures**. Moody Press, 1995.

Swindoll, Charles R. **For Those Who Hurt**. Zondervan, 1977.

Tada, Joni Eareckson. **Heaven: Your Real Home**. Zondervan, 1997.

Wiersbe, Warren. **The Bumps Are What You Climb On**. Baker Books, 1980.