

## TODAY'S SCRIPTURE PASSAGES:

**Colossians 1:** 15 The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. 17 He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. 19 For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

**Romans 8:** 18 I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. 19 For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. 20 For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

22 We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. 23 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. 24 For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? 25 But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

## QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION & REFLECTION

1. What struck you from the sermon and why?
2. Do you tend to be optimistic or pessimistic about the future? How does that impact you in the present?
3. Did this sermon challenge the way you think about Christian hope? If so, how?
4. What do you make of the idea that your life is meant to be a signpost that points to God's glorious future?
5. Christian hope makes one joyful, resilient, invested and gracious. Which of those "fruits" is a timely reminder for you right now, and why?

## FOR FURTHER READING

Surprised by Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection and the Mission of the Church by NT Wright

# Sermon Notes