

Romans 8:18-30

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope 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. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. 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. For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. 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. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

LITTLE TWIGS: In our weekly gatherings we engage in teaching God's truth and responding through singing, collective prayer and liturgical readings. We believe it is important for our children to **see**, **hear**, and **experience** God's Word and His people responding in worship. In this way we *corporately* seek to raise children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Eph 6:4), so children remain in worship and teaching with the adults.

Here are a few ideas to engage your little ones in the service today:

- Pick up a "Little Twigs" plastic tote in the entry way before church.
- Ask your little one to draw a picture of the things they are hearing in the sermon.
- Have your children listen and - pat your arm, make a mark, draw a circle, or count the number of times those key words come up in the sermon.
- Incentivize success with rewards or snacks
- Have your child help with offering.
- After church take your child to "Little Twigs" where they hear a summary of the sermon, ask them what they learned.

April 27, 2025

Today's Order of Service:

- Call to Worship: Romans 8:18-30
- Old 100th Doxology
- Reading: 1689 "Christ the Mediator"
- Speak O' Lord

Teaching: Ruth 1:1-5, "Behind the Scenes"

- Collection of Tithes and Offerings
- Solid Rock I Stand
- My Worth is Not in What I Own
- The Steadfast Love
- Benediction

Upcoming Sermon Topics and Events: (also see website)

April 27 – The King of the Ordinary; Ruth 1:1-5

May 4 – The King of the Ordinary; Ruth 1:6-18

May 11- The King of the Ordinary; Ruth 1:19-22

May 18 – The King of the Ordinary; Ruth 2:1-7

May 25 – The King of the Ordinary; Ruth 2:8-13

THE WORKSHOP: Men's Bible Study. Meet's the FIRST Sunday morning of every month at 7:30 a.m. Meeting location: 4H Fair Grounds, Church Building. Next Meeting: May 4, 7:30am.

LIVE STREAMING: If you cannot attend in person, you can join us by clicking the button on our home page at **vineandbranch.family**

EMAIL LIST: If you attend regularly and want to be kept updated on church information and events provide your email to Ian Smith; iansmith@ianlabs.com.

MISSIONARIES and MINISTRIES:

Rajan & Helen Nehemiah

Agape Christian Mission – India; Agapemissionindia.org

John & Brittany Bagatya

YWAM Hopeland Base, Uganda; Bagatya.wordpress.com

40 Days for Life: 40daysforlife.com

Please check out <https://vineandbranch.family/> for a more detailed calendar of events, weekly sermon series and study passages, and to access previous sermons on both our website and Spotify.

Intro: The **practical demands of living**, the **monotony of ordinary life**, or **unexpected hardships** can pull our focus away from God's redemptive work and His promise to complete what He **began in us and the world**. Like the disciples, it is only in hindsight that we **see** and **remember** God's redemptive work in every area of our world and life.

Reflection: "Father, when I lose sight of your redemptive work, who you are, what you have done, and your commitments to your people, I find myself motivated by **FEAR**(anxiety) **or** **ANGER**(control) **or** **DESPAIR**(depression) **or** **CRAVING**(impulse) or some mixture of those. When ruled by this, I then seek comfort in: Money/spending or saving – overworking – activities/busyness – people pleasing – obsessing about health/family – obsessing about politics – success/achieving – food – sleep – alcohol – pornography – isolation – socializing – controlling circumstances/people – media (scrolling/music/movies) – Other: _____.

Father, through this series in Ruth, teach me to remember you are always working behind the scenes, that I can trust your redemptive plan, believe your word, live by faith, and walk in joyful obedience... **to practically live as citizens of God's Kingdom... even in difficulties and flow of ordinary days.** – Amen!"

Main Point: The book of Ruth offers **profound truth**, **beautiful wisdom**, and **clear direction** for living as citizens of God's Kingdom, even when facing difficulties, or in the flow of ordinary days.

Context: Ruth 1:1 "In the days when the judges ruled..." This was a dark time in Israel's history, marked by apostasy, warfare, moral decay, and anarchy, where, Judges 17:6 tells us, "Everyone did what was right in his own eyes."

- Judges 17–21 portrays **Bethlehem** as a hub of idolatry, lawlessness, and violence.
- The **Moabites**, were descendants of Lot (Gen. 19:30–38), were arch enemies of Israel, worshiped the false god Chemosh.
- In Moab, **tragedy compounds** (v.3) Elimelech and both sons die, leaving Naomi and her daughters-in-law as widows.
- In ancient Israel this meant that without male relatives, these women lacked social status, income, and protection both socially and physically. This made them destitute and very vulnerable in a foreign land.
- God's name (Yahweh) appears only a few times in the entire book, and, unlike Judges, no miraculous interventions or angelic visitations are recorded.
- Yet, we see **God's providence behind the scenes quietly weaving together the lives of ordinary people, doing ordinary things, facing a broken world, and bringing about his kingdom.**

A Challenge from the Book of Ruth our start today: Trusting God's Unseen Work

The Book of Ruth is a powerful reminder that **God is always at work**, even in the **rhythm of ordinary days** or the **pain of life's darkest moments**. Through the lives of Naomi and Ruth, we see a God who weaves His redemptive plan through **everyday decisions, unlikely people, and even profound loss.**

- **KNOW God Is at Work Behind the Scenes:** Whether you're caught in the **rhythm of ordinary days** or **facing overwhelming difficulties**, trust that **God is active**. John 5:17, "My Father is always working, and so am I."
- **SEE God's Providence Through People in Your Life:** So often we want miracles and God sends us ordinary people. God's redemptive plan often unfolds through the ordinary people around us. **Ask yourself:** Who is God using in my life to draw me closer to Him? How might he use me in someone else's life to draw them closer to Him.
- **WALK in Obedience Even When You Can't See What God Is Doing:** Instead of anchoring our hope in things **we can control**—money, approval, or quick fixes—let's Take steps of faith, love others, and follow Christ, even when the outcome is unclear. **Obedience in the ordinary is where God often works out His Long-term redemption.**