

scripture reading

Romans 8:19 – 25



the wait

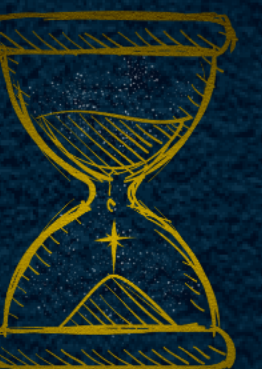
A N D

the hope

*Advent (like all Christian faith)
is about two kinds of waiting:*

Suffering (passion): the waiting we can't wait to
be over

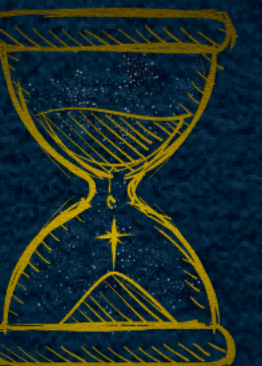
Anticipation: the waiting for something we can't
wait to start



*‘Waiting on God’ is a deep
aphorism mistaken for an
empty cliché.*

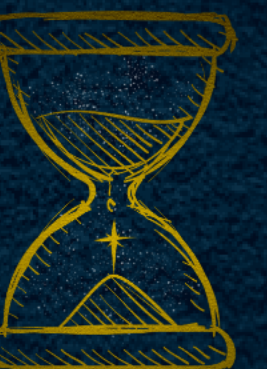
An aphorism is a statement of wisdom that is deeper than it seems.

A cliché is a purported statement of wisdom that is shallower than it seems.



3 goals over the next 4 weeks:

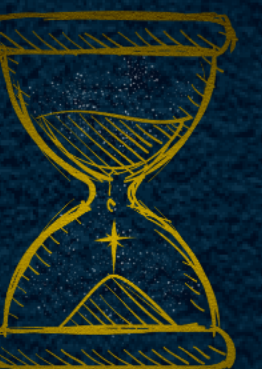
1. Demonstrate that waiting on the Lord is no cliché, but instead is a spiritual principle of necessary wisdom and an integral part of faith in Christ.
2. Clarify what it means to faithfully wait for God.
3. Show its importance and benefits for those willing to see its wisdom through faith.



*Anticipation of glory is the counterweight
to the desperation of the curse*

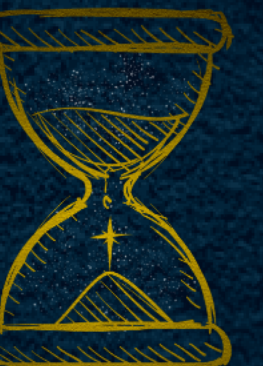
Natural principle: Truthful anticipation is the counterweight to undeniable desperation.

Supernatural truth: Gospel hope is the supernatural counterweight to the desperation caused by the weight of the curse.



3 parts:

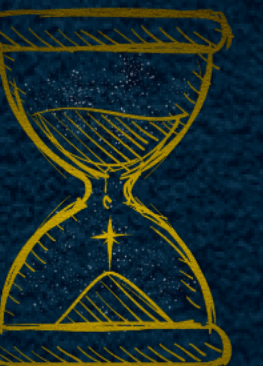
1. The curse is like weight, crushing the heart.
2. The weight of Glory is the counterweight to the curse.
3. Hope becomes operative through anticipation.



I. The weight of the curse naturally crushes the heart

(pati/passio)

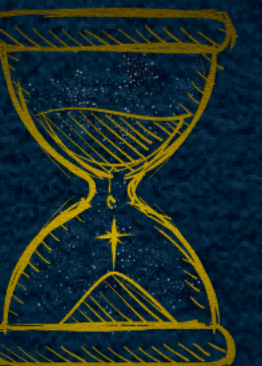
The curse weighs down the heart with
passion—a heart-sickness that must be endured.



How do you face this weight?

Human hopes:

- Nobility: I'm strong enough to carry this weight, and that of others.
- Anger: I'll stop this pain and get justice for it.
- Resignation: If I don't believe it matters, it can't crush me.
- Relativism: There are many interesting and good things in the world to enjoy, and life is still good.
- Relief: I can't get rid of the weight, but there are ways to escape it for awhile.

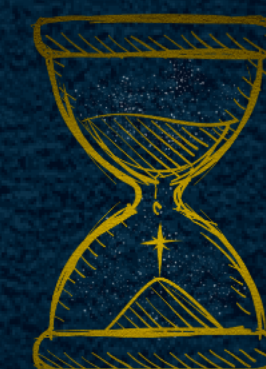


How do you face this weight?

All of human hopes accept that the curse is final, that it rules. That it is the ultimate reality.

It forces the question of faith: Is the curse the only reality, or just part of reality? Is there something as real and universal as the curse that truly counterweighs it?

Yes, there is.



2. The weight of glory is the counterweight to the curse

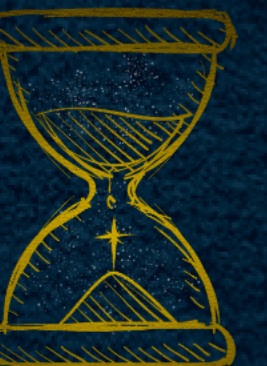
Glory is the opposite of futility:

- Glory: Nothing will stay as it is
- Futility: Nothing will ever change



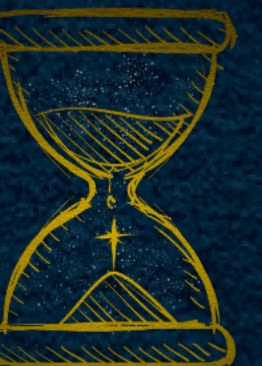
Romans 8:18

I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.



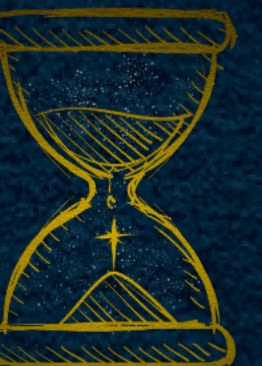
2 Corinthians 4:15 – 18

All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God. Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.



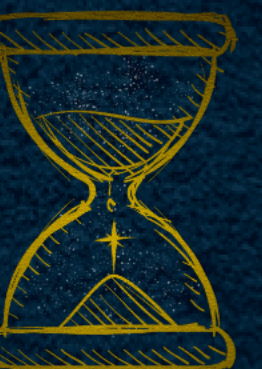
3. Hope becomes operative through anticipation and longing

“Eager expectation”: a cognate to the New Testament words for “hope”—it focuses on the anticipatory longing that activates hope as a functional asset in waiting for God.



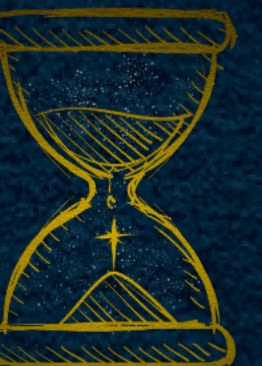
Romans 8:19 – 25

The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently (eagerly—NAS).



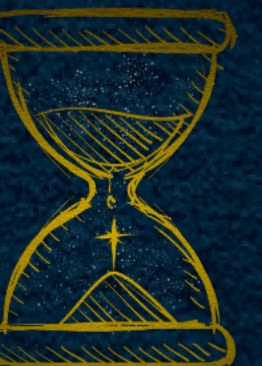
Galatians 5:4 – 5

You who are trying to be justified by law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace. But by faith we eagerly await through the Spirit the righteousness for which we hope.



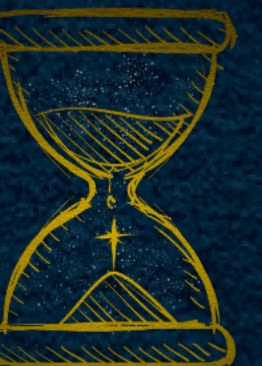
Philippians 3:18 – 21

For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.



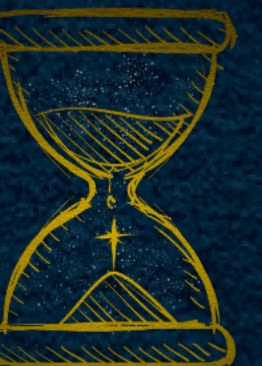
Hebrews 9:27 – 28

Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are [eagerly] waiting for him.

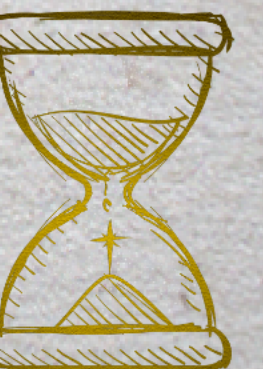


Preach the glories:

- Our longings are real and our groanings matter.
- What is good is permanent.
- Our citizenship is in heaven, and our Savior is coming from there.
- He will transform our bodies.
- He will give us victory over our true enemies and reconcile us to our true brothers and sisters.
- We will come to judge the whole universe. We will experience the righteousness for which he has made us hope.
- We will be healed in our minds, hearts and relationships.
- We will see that the curse was not final.



*Jesus himself functioned in
the tension of suffering and
the anticipation of glory.*





the wait

AND

the hope