

## **Sermon Draft**

**Text: Romans 8:18–27**

**Sermon: Not Our Home**

Our world is a pretty messed-up place. You probably don't need me to tell you this, as I expect the evening news will provide it. But as we look at our society and we can just focus on our own country the courts have to decide that it's not okay to abort babies and harvest them like car parts. Some states though disagree and will continue the practice. We have our federal government protecting LBTG rights while at the same time taking away the Christian's right to exercise their faith in their daily lives.

We have first responders, especially police officers being assassinated while sitting in their patrol cars. And the only reason they are out there is to protect and help us. What has happened to God's Word all these issues were settled a long time ago.

Yes, our world and country are pretty messed up. And I only gave examples of what's happening in our own country. If we look around the world it just gets worse. We all know unfairness is natural, it's part of life in this sinful world. The top dog gets the biggest share, the most powerful wins. The strongest and most powerful take what they want. Sadly, this is nothing new and it happens on all levels from nations to individual relationships and bullies. Kids in school can't even feel safe, they too are bullied and harassed both by other students and by some adults.

Work and school are unfair. In short, life isn't fair, and we know it. It never has been, and it never will be. That's just how it works in this world. Suffering is natural, disasters happen. Look at the floods and other natural disasters just in the last couple of weeks. In this world people are going to get hurt and property and lives are going to be lost. That's how the world works.

Good and kind and noble people hear their doctor say  
“Cancer.” Children get sick or are injured, neglected, or abused. We  
don’t like to think about it, but it happens all the time. That’s just  
how the world works. Death is natural. People die. It’s the end of  
life, and the only way life can end (short of Jesus coming back, but  
we’ll get to that . . .).

Young or old, important or humble, woman or man, big or  
small, in the end we all face the simple, stark reality. We die. Death  
is, as they say, natural. That’s just how the world works. But if all  
that is true, has always been true, and known to be true, why do  
we rebel against it? Why do we look at the one who takes the  
lion’s share and demand that he leave some for others? Why do  
we expect that hard work will result in its just rewards? If this is  
just the way the world is, why do we feel so uncomfortable when  
something is unfair?

Why do we react on the inmost level to news of people who are experiencing pain or suffering? If this is just the way the world is, why do we react so deeply when confronted by suffering? Above all, if death is natural, what is that instinctive, visceral sense of violation that we feel when it happens?

Why do we stand in the visitation and mouth empty lies like, "He looks so natural," in some vain effort to convince ourselves that this is just how the world works? If this is just the way the world is, the way it's always been, and the way it always will be, why do we reject it with every fiber of our being?

We reject all of this because we know we belong to a different world. Like the hymn goes; "I am but a stranger here, heaven is my home." Last week we talked about how we are adopted as sons and daughters and someday our Father will take us home to be with him.

We reject unfairness because we know that our world is fundamentally supported to be just, because God is just. We reject suffering because we know that people were not made to suffer.

We reject death because we know that it's an unwelcome intruder into creation and the most essential violation of a world that was created to be alive and bring about life.

We reject all this because we know God created us for a different world. A world where all have what they need. A world where suffering will cease. A world where death is no more.

Revelation 21 gives us a glimpse of this. ***"Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the seas was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.***

***And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."***

That world is coming. The night before he died on the cross, Jesus told his disciples, ***"Where I am going you cannot follow me now, but you will follow afterward... I go to prepare a place for you."*** (John 13:36; 14:2) And then he went to prepare that place, not first by his ascension, but first by dying for our sins and the sins of the world. That's what opened the new world to us. That world is prepared. And one of these days Jesus *will* come back and bring us to it.

That world is coming. But it's not here yet. We are not home yet, but we wait with a sure and certain hope. God does not forsake his children, and the day will come when this world will be unmade, a new heaven and a new earth will be ours, and we will be *home*.

Amen