

“ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD”

INTRODUCTION

Our lesson at this time is, “All things work together for good.” These words come from a great passage of scripture in Rom. 8:28. The entire verse needs to be considered, **in its context**. Quote. Now, note 2 things of special importance: (1) These things work together for GOOD, not evil; (2) The good is for those who love God, as His called according to His purpose. Now, let’s study the passage.

DISCUSSION

I. First, what ARE the “ALL THINGS” OF THE PASSAGE?

- A. The word “thing” or “things, is found hundreds of times in the scripture.
1. The expression “these things” is found some 156 times in the New Testament.
 - a. Sometimes it refers to the events around the fall of Jerusalem. Matt. 24:3,6,33,34
 - b. The context of other instances are of no particular interest for this lesson in studying Rom. 8:28
 2. The term “all things,” and “the things” pertaining to the inspired revelation of God in 1 Cor. 2:1-16 are found 10 times in the chapter.
 3. The term “all things” is also used hundreds of times in scripture, with no specific application as to its meaning, except as determined by the context in which it is found.
 - a. It is used in Matt. 23:20 to refer to “all things” of the **altar**.
 - b. It is used in Matt. 28:20 to refer to all the **commandments** the Lord gave the apostles.
 4. The term “all things” is also used 2 times in 1 Cor. 2, along with the word “things” is found 8 times.
- B. A few brethren have found a common term in 1 Cor. 2 to Romans, and have concluded that the inspiration of the gospel of Christ of 1 Cor 2 is referred to in Rom. 8:28, and nothing else.
1. This is an inconsistent application of the use of the word “things” in the New Testament.
 2. The term “all things” is used 5 times in Matt. 24 with reference to the fall of Jerusalem, and **not** to the inspiration of the gospel.
- C. The **context** of Romans 8 itself needs to be studied carefully.
1. Paul had made reference to the sufferings of the present time being worthwhile, for they will result in ultimate “glory” to be revealed in the future. (vs. 17-18)
 2. Then Paul discussed that we need help in our prayers,. (v. 26)
 3. THEN, Paul referred to “all things” that work for good in our lives. (v. 28)
 4. He then discussed how God delivered His Son to be crucified under adverse circumstances, and freely gives US “all things.”
 - a. “These things” are to be used FOR us, not AGAINST us. (v. 31)
 - b. He innumerate some of the adverse things that can happen to us. (v. 35)
 - c. He then says that through “these things” we are more than conquerors, for God is with us. (vs. 37, 31)
 - d. Finally, at the end of the chapter, he lists some OTHER things that will NOT separate us from the love of Christ. (vs. 38-39)
 - 1) He mentions **“things present”** (NOT the PAST inspiration of scripture).
 - 2) He also mentions **“things to come”** (Future tense, NOT future inspiration of scripture).
- D. A point of interest, If the things that work together for our good refers to the inspiration of the scripture, just WHAT would be the “evil” (not good) that works **with** the good to bring all this about??

II. Second, let’s consider some OBJECTIONS to the thoughts herein presented.

- A. Some argue that “all things” are NOT good, but God’s revelation IS good, or perfect.
- B. Paul did not SAY all things ARE good, but that all things “work together” FOR good in the lives of those who love God.
1. The good and bad things that happen to us will be **worked** FOR “good.”
 2. It is GOD who can, in His providence, work a blessing through the adverse things of this life, to bless us with good.
 - a. Elihu was correct when he said, “Behold, God works all these things.” (Job 33:29;; NKJV).

- b. Paul said, "For it is God which **worketh** in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure." (Phil. 2:13)
- c. Paul also said, "And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation **worketh** patience." (Rom. 5:3).
- d. James wrote, "Knowing this, that the trying of your faith **worketh** patience." (Jas. 1:3)

III. Third, let's look at some examples of God working good out of bad things.

- A. God worked good out of the evil intent of Joseph's brothers who sold him to Potiphar's house. Gen. 45:5-9
- B. God obviously worked through Esther to preserve the Jews. Esther 4:14
- C. David of old realized that good came to him out of adversity. Psa. 119:67
- D. Daniel the prophet was blessed through adversity. Dan. 6:16-28
- E. Job enjoyed the good that came to him after evil was there. Job 42:10-17
- F. Paul also enjoyed the good that followed his life of adversity. Phil. 1:17; 2 Cor. 12:7-10
- G. Onesimus also was blessed after adversity. Philemon 10-16

CONCLUSION

- I. As we journey through a life of adversity, let us remember Jesus and his glory, in which we will be able to share. Heb. 12:1-2
 - A. Many of us who have suffered adversity would not want to go through it again, but God has pulled us through these things to bless us abundantly.
 - B. We are stronger when we pull through adversity, with prospects of eternal life awaiting us.
- II. If you are not a Christian, you do not have the blessed providence and help of the Lord to strengthen you in this life in view of heaven to come.
 - A. God can work good for you through His providence.
 - B. His goodness favors those who love Him.
- III. If you are subject to the invitation of the Lord, we invite you to respond right now, as we stand together and sing a song for your encouragement.

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