

“TO THEM THAT LOVE GOD”

INTRODUCTION

Much can be said about God’s love for us, and our love for God. Four passages in the New Testament make reference “to them that love God.” These are the exact words in Rom. 8:28, while the other 3 passages say “to them that love HIM”, while referring TO God, so the meaning is the same. Now let’s read the 4 passages. Rom. 8:28; 1 Cor. 2:9; Jas. 1:12; 2:15.

Now let’s give special attention to the expression, “to them that love God.”

DISCUSSION

I. In the 1st place, who ARE “them that love God?”

A. *Negatively*, let’s see who does NOT love God.

1. 1st, those who **do not believe** in God’s existence do not love Him, for they do not even believe He exists. Cf Heb. 11:6
2. 2nd, those who **say they love God**, but do nothing to show it, and thus do not love Him. Matt. 23:1-3
3. 3rd, those who **hate their brethren** do not love God. 1 John 4:20-21
4. 4th, those who **love and practice the sinful things of the world** do not love God. 1 John 2:15-17
 - a. This includes those who leave the church for the material things of the world, or worldliness, but “say” they still love God. 2 Tim. 4:10
 - b. Those who leave the church and join a human denomination, may still “say” they love God while rejecting His church and family.

B. Now, *Positively*, let’s see who **does** love God.

1. 1st, those who love God are those who are always, without compromise, willing and anxious to obey God in all things. John 14:15; 1 John 5:3
2. 2nd, those who love God are described in Rom. 8:28, as those who are the “called of God.” (Read and explain)
 - a. God call us by the gospel. 2 Thes. 2:14
 - b. “Saints”, or Christians are the “called” of God. Rom. 1:6-7; 1 Cor. 1:1-2

II. In the 2nd place, what ARE the “promises” God makes to them?

A. At this point we shall summarize the blessings from each of the 4 passages.

1. Rom. 8:28 says that “all things work together for good.” (Explain)
2. 1 Cor. 2:9 alludes to the “things” God has “prepared” for us, without naming them.
3. Jas. 1:12 says we receive the “crown of life.” (Explain)
4. James also says we can be “rich in faith” and “heirs of the kingdom.” (Read 2:15)

B. Notice God’s hand in all these promises.

1. Rom. 8:28 says “all things work together,” implying that God’s hand is involved, since they benefit those who love Him, and are the called according to His purpose. Rom. 4:21; 2 Cor. 9:8
 - a. This does **not** mean that God CAUSES “all things” (including the evil), to happen, but somehow, some way, through His providence, can cause a good **result**, according to His will or “purpose” for those who are His called.
 - b. This does **not** mean that all things ARE “good”, for many things are bad, or unfortunate.
 - 1) Joseph’s brethren did “evil”, but God worked it for “good. Gen. 39:2; 50:20
 - 2) David was afflicted, but later said it was “good” (Psa. 119:71)

- 3) The Jews did “evil” by murdering Jesus, but God worked it for “good”, in raising Him from the dead to bring salvation to mankind. Acts 2:22-24
- c. One purpose is that we will be ultimately “glorified.” Rom. 8:29-30 (Explain)
- 1) “All these things” does not mean God is ever against us, but He is FOR us in His working. Rom. 8:31
 - 2) The giving of His son is “proof” of that. vs. 33-34
- d. Another purpose of God is that we never be separated from the love of Christ. vs. 35-36
- e. Yet another purpose of God is that we be “more than conquerors” **through** “Him that loved us.” v. 37
- f. Then, Paul names some things that COULD separate us, but over which we must be “more than conquerors.” vs. 36-39 (Read)
2. Some brethren argue that the “all things” of Rom. 8:28 refers to the scripture that God reveals to us, that bring us to Christ and salvation, because they can find the term “all things” in both passages.
- a. They quote 1 Cor. 2:9, (which context uses the word “things” 9 times), with reference to the “things which God has prepared for them that love Him,” while in Rom. 8:28 “things” is found only one time.
 - b. The **context** of Rom. 8:28 is NOT that of “revelation through scripture”, but to “things” that are **NAMED** in the rest of the chapter.
 - 1) He can give us “all things”, referring to the resulting “good” that can be ours. v. 32
 - 2) Then, “all things” refers to the many “things present” and “things to come,” that he enumerates in the entire chapter. vs. 37-39
 - c. There are other passages that confirm our conclusion that show a blessing God works for us through the adversities of life. Rom. 5:3-5; Jas. 1:2-4; Psa. 119:67,71
- C. Now briefly, we shall examine the other passages that refer “to them that love him.”
1. In 1 Cor. 2:9, Paul refers to the “things” that God has prepared for them that love Him (while not referring to the unseen beauties of heaven). (Read text)
 - a. These are the things of GOD—not the “all things” of evil in the world. v. 9
 - b. These are the “deep things of God”. v. 10
 - c. These are the things man cannot know apart from the scripture, as the Spirit reveals them to us IN the scripture. vs. 11-14
 2. In James 1:12, the writer refers to the “crown of life” to be given to those who endure temptation. (Read)
 3. In James 2:5, James says God has chosen those who may be poor in this world, to be “rich in faith” and “heirs of the kingdom.” (Read)

CONCLUSION

- I. Do **you** want the providence of God, and ultimate glorification in the crown of life in God’s heavenly kingdom?
 - A. If so, you need to be born into the earthly phase of the kingdom.
 - B. Also, you need to remain faithful so as to keep yourself in the love of God.
- II. If you are subject to the invitation in any way, we urge and invite you to respond to let your needs known, while we stand together and sing.

Don Tarbet