

# God Will Work It Out

- *Romans 8:28*

- I want you to turn to Romans 8 and I want you to look with me this morning at what I believe to be one of the most precious verses, yet one of the most misquoted verses in the Bible. I am a firm believer in the promises of God & I believe that the promises of God were given to us for encouragement & strength, but we must accept the promise in its entirety & be extremely careful not to take it out of its context or turn it to fit our own situation.
- **READ SCRIPTURE**
- I believe this verse of scripture can give you peace at night to go to sleep. It can give you comfort throughout any situation in your life. It can give you strength & confidence to continue living & following after God even when you don't understand your surroundings. But it is not a "cure all" verse or promise.
  - I want to illustrate something to you this morning. I am going to put out on this table this morning 2 different poisons.
    - One poison is known as sodium. Sodium is an alkali metal & when this metal combines with moisture, it will explode.
    - The other chemical is known as chloride, often associated with chlorine. Chlorine is a deadly gas, that when inhaled can cause extreme sickness & even death.
    - So here are 2 very powerful & potentially harmful chemicals. Yet when they are put together, we call it sodium chloride which forms something that is very good for us. It forms what we commonly call salt.
- **Now, there are certain things in this life that are not good. As a matter of fact let's just be honest, some things that we encounter in life are bad, even terrible. Take for instance the cross:**
  - Everything that surrounded the cross up until the death of Christ was bad.
    - The beatings,
    - The mockery,
    - The torture,
    - Not to mention the pain & ensuing death.
  - But God has the ability to take these things that in and of themselves are bad and He mixes them with the hand of His love and He makes something good out of it.
- **This is one of the greatest verses in the Bible & I want you to notice several things about this great promise this morning.**
  1. **It's Certainty**
    - *"And we know that all things work together..."*
    - This is not a "hope so", this is not perhaps so, but the apostle Paul says, "We know that it is true", let me just add, not just this promise, but ALL of God's promises are true.
      - Dr. F. B. Meyer said, "On an occasion, if any promise of God should fail, the Heaven would clothe themselves with sackcloth. The sun, the moon, and the stars would reel from their courses. The universe would rock. And, a hollow wind would moan through a ruined creation the awful message that God can lie. But, thank God, while many may lie, God cannot lie. He abides faithful."
    - Paul here reminds us that all things will work together, but be careful that we don't just use this in reference to our circumstances. If you get your eyes on circumstances, you'll get confused.
      - One woman said to another man, "I got married." He said, "That's wonderful." "Uh" she said, "but my husband is not good looking." "Oh," he said, "that's too bad." She said, "He's very rich though." "Oh," he said, "that's good." "But he's very stingy," she said. "Oh," he

said, "that's bad." "But," she said, "He did build us a big house." "Oh," he said, "that's good." "But it burned," she said. "Oh," he said, "that's bad." "But he was in it," she said. Then he didn't know what to say. We look at circumstances and sometimes we say this is good, then it's bad, then it's good, and then it's bad. Hey, folks, just wait till God is finished. His finished work is ALWAYS good, AMEN?

- The same God that programmed the planets to draw that tide back and forth is the God that controls your life this morning. He is the same God that controls this universe. But, I want you to notice something else.

## 2. It's Completeness

- Notice what he said. He says, "*And we know that all things work together for good*".
  - o All things? We might go far as to say that "some things" work together for good. We understand that out of difficulty we learn some great lessons of faith that cannot come any other way. But can we be sure it is really all things?
  - o But Pastor, you don't understand my circumstances. Friend, don't doubt God! Do you really think the God that created this universe can't work through the situations in your life?
  - o This verse of scripture has NO limitations & Paul is very clear to add the little word "all" here to make sure that we understand the omnipotence of the God we serve. There is nothing too big for my God! There is nothing that will overwhelm Him. Nothing that will overpower Him. He is in complete control of your life today & He is able to work all things together for good in your life.
- You know, I am reminded here that God has given us some good things.
  - o Our mates.
  - o Our family.
  - o Our health.
  - o Our happiness.
  - o Our church.
  - o And James 1:17 reminds us that we are to thank God for all of these good gifts. "*Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above...*".
- And you know, God uses these same things at times even when we're not good.
  - o The Bible says, "*... the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?*" ([Romans 2:4](#)).
- But what about the "not so good" things in our life. What about the tragedies, the disappointments, the frustrations, can God use them?
  - o Jeremiah 24:5 – "Thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel; Like these good figs, so will I acknowledge them that are carried away captive of Judah, whom I have sent out of this place into the land of the Chaldeans for their good."
    - The Babylonians came in and took Judah (God's people) out of their land. And, God had them put into a foreign country as captives.
    - But, why did God say he did it? Had God forsaken them? Was He mad at them? No. God said, "I did it for their good."
  - o If you would read the story of Joseph you would find that he was betrayed by his brethren. He was put into a pit and left for dead. And, then brought out of that pit and sold into slavery. After he was sold into slavery, he was cast into prison. He was mocked and ridiculed. And, his brothers did it to him, those closest to him. But, I want you to notice what this man—Joseph—said
    - Genesis 50:20 – "But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good,"
  - o Now, suppose that had happened to you. Suppose you'd been left in a pit by your brothers. Suppose you'd been sold as a slave. Suppose you'd been lied about, laughed at & thrown

into prison. Suppose you had been falsely accused of rape and all of these things. That happened to Joseph. Joseph said to his brothers, "you meant it for harm." But, God meant it for good.

- You may be like Joseph, suffering at the hand of your brethren. You may be like Judah, carried into captivity. And yet, I will tell you that in all the sorrowful things that happen in your life, if you're a Christian and if you love God they will work together for good.
- But what about those things that Satan brings our way? Can God take those things & use them for our good? Absolutely He can!
  - o The Bible says that, God makes even the wrath of man to praise him.
  - o The apostle Paul had a vision from God. It was so big, so great, and so glorious. The Bible tells us in 2 Corinthians 12 that Paul was in danger of being carried away into perhaps pride, egotism, or going beyond certain bounds that God had set for him. And he said there in [2 Corinthians 12:7](#), "*... there was given to me a thorn in the flesh—and then notice what he said—the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure*" ([2 Corinthians 12:7](#)).
- God's desire here was to humble Paul. That didn't mean what the devil did was good. But, here is God who takes everything that happens and He works it together for good.
  - o Here was the apostle Paul who was broken, humble, and hurt. He cried out to the Lord on 3 different occasions to remove his pain. But finally he said, when I'm weak, then I'm strong. And, God gave him added grace.
- Even where there is sin, God can still use it for our good.
  - o Romans 5:20 – "Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:"
  - o If a man sins then he will suffer. If a man sins then he will be hurt. If a man sins it is a horrible, horrible thing to do. But God can take our moments of failure & show Himself to us perhaps in a clearer way than ever before if we will look to Him. Even when we sin, God can use it as a platform to not only you, but others in your faith.
- But why don't our circumstances always change for our good?
  - o God is at work in your life today & He is seeking to make you & I more like Jesus. He has predestined you to that end (v.29).
  - o Therefore, anything that makes you more like Jesus Christ is good. Anything that pulls you away from Jesus Christ is bad.
  - o When Paul says that all things work together for good, he is not saying that the tragedies and heartaches of life will always produce a better set of circumstances. Sometimes they do, sometimes they don't. But God is not committed to making you happy and successful. He *is* committed to making you more like his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. And whatever it takes to make you more like Jesus is good.
- Don't be overwhelmed & feel forsaken b/c this world has turned against God like it has. He is still on the throne & He is still in control.
  - o Pharaoh—the mighty king and ruler of Egypt—decreed that all the little boy babies would be put to death. Little Moses was hid in the bulrushes. Pharaoh's daughter heard that baby crying and her maternal instincts went out. She found that little baby and she raised him. He became mighty Moses that led the children of Israel out of Egypt, and brought about the demise of that great monarchy. God was still in control.

### 3. It's Covering

- "*And we know that all things work together for good to **them that love God**, to them who are called according to **his** purpose.*"

- Some people look at life like a roll of the dice-sometimes you win and sometimes you lose. And they believe that after a tragedy, God shows up to make everything come out right. But that is not the biblical view at all.
  - o God is at work in each of our lives right now.
  - o People will often times ask, "Where is God when it hurts? Where was He when this tragedy happened in my life?" How do answer that? I'll tell you where He was ... He was right there all along. He was there before it all happened, he is there when it happens, and he is still there after it is all over.
- But hang on, there is a condition to this promise, it's not just automatic. The Bible says. *"And we know that all things work together for good **to them that love God**..."*
  - o This verse is true of Christians and only of Christians. It is not a blanket promise to the whole human race. Why? Because God's purpose is to make **His** children more like his Son.
  - o Evangelist Lester Roloff said, "When you walk and live in the will of God, Romans 8:28 is going to hatch out the best for you, and that includes the sunshine, as well as the shadows and the rain."
  - o Therefore, this verse forces us to ask two simple questions this morning:
    - 1. Have you ever responded to God's call?
    - 2. Are you a part of God's will & His purpose?
    - You either answer "Yes" or "No" to those questions. There is no middle ground. Until you can answer "Yes", this verse does not apply to you.
- What is God's purpose in the good & bad in my life & in your life? To make us more like His Son & bring others to Him.
  - o While Paul & Silas were in jail, Silas asked Paul, "How do you think it's going to work out?" "I don't know, but in the meantime we'll be praying. Let's pray now." They prayed and then Paul said, "Silas, do you feel like singing?" He said, "Yes sir. I'll sing." So they began to sing.
  - o The Bible says they prayed and sang. After Paul and Silas prayed and sang a while, they felt the building shaking and saw the doors falling off. The old jailer started to commit suicide, But Paul said, "Hold it. Do thyself no harm. We are all here."
  - o And the jailer came and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved, And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ . . ." and he believed. When the jailer took Paul and Silas home for breakfast and was washing their bloody backs, I am sure he was sorry for putting them through the torture that they had endured. And I believe Paul & Silas would have said, "That's all right. This is all a part and purpose of God to get you saved. We don't mind these stripes. It was for God's good."
- I have 2 questions this morning.
  - o Are you a part of the Family of God? Has there ever been a time where you trusted in Jesus Christ as your Personal Savior? God is calling you today, He is desiring to make you more like His Son, but you must first trust in Him as Lord of your life.
  - o Christian, are you seeking YOUR good or God's good for your life? We often times turn our backs on God b/c we don't see thing working out the way we planned. I'm not telling you to get excited when bad things happen to you. But we need to understand that no matter what happens to us, no matter how unfair life seems, our God is there. He has not left us. His purposes are being worked out as much in the darkness as they are in the light.
    - Children are often afraid of the dark & are frightened & even scared. But one thing that helps is when dad comes in & holds them in his arms & assures them it will be alright. It doesn't take the darkness away, but it calms their spirit & gives them confidence that even though they can't see, dad has assured them it will be alright.