

For our Good and His Glory # 28

Romans 8:28

Paul has just discussed the curse of sin and the great burden it places on all of creation, as well as the believer. There is no doubt that we all face difficulty and trying times while living here on earth. At times the difficulties are brief and considered “manageable,” while at other times we find ourselves in a sea of turmoil that seems to endure for an extended period of time, maybe months or years.

Trouble is something we all have, but none of us want. As the world considers the problems of life, they tend to view our difficulties as a stroke of bad luck, unfair circumstances, or mere coincidences. As believers we know that God is in control of every aspect of our lives. The believer faces nothing that God isn't aware of and allowed to come within our lives. We do not live by chance or luck, but within the sovereign design of God.

We have read a single verse today, but it is one of the most familiar and quoted verses in all of Scripture. These words have brought comfort and encouragement to many down through the years. This verse has significant meaning in my life and has brought comfort on numerous occasions. I want to discuss the [details](#) of this precious promise as we consider the thought: [For our Good and His Glory](#). As we consider this verse, I hope it will provide comfort and guidance for you and that it will come to remembrance during those difficult seasons in life. We discover it is:

I. A Confident Promise (28) – [And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose](#). There is one thing that is always certain in life: *uncertainty*. We have no way of knowing what our future holds. We do not know what tomorrow will have in store for us. Very likely we will all experience seasons of joy and hope, but there will also be times of difficulty, suffering, and grief. We will have days of abundance and times of doubt and discouragement. There will be mountains to climb, valleys to endure, and many ordinary, uneventful days. There is little we can know with absolute certainty.

- [Job 14:1](#) – *Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble*. Job certainly experienced his share of heartache and trouble. There will be times in our lives when it seems our world is falling apart, actually crumbling around us. However, in the midst of our difficulties, we can know that God is in control. As difficult as Job's life was, his faith in God remained. [Job 19:25](#) – *For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth*. Paul faced his share of difficulty and burdens and yet he was confident in the Lord and remained steadfast in the faith. [2 Tim.1:12](#) – *For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day*.

- With all of life's uncertainty, I can be confident of one thing: I belong to the Lord. He is the source of my salvation, my hope, my strength, my joy, and my security. He is my High Tower and hiding place when the storms of life rage round about me. He has set the bounds of our future and we are secure in His mighty hand. When our Lord makes a promise, we can know assuredly that it is true. [Rom.4:21 – And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.](#)

II. A Complete Promise (28) – [And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.](#) This would be easier for us to embrace if Paul had said some things, most things, or even certain things work together for our good, but he declares that all things work together for our good. We can't always see it, but all things are working together for our benefit.

- We don't have a problem admitting the things we perceive as good working for our benefit. We tend to focus on the good things in life: our families, homes, health, jobs, church, friends, salvation, etc...God does use these things to bring about benefit to our lives, but the things or events we perceive as good are not the only things God uses for our benefit. Many times He will use the difficult and trying times, events, or circumstances for our good. We usually aren't thankful for a flat tire, a traffic jam, or a missed flight, but God may have sovereignly allowed an inconvenience in our lives to prevent us from being in an accident. We may have missed out on a promotion at work when the extra money would have been beneficial, but the added demands of the new position may have created marital or family problems. We must always remember that God sees the big picture. He is guiding us toward the future He has planned.

- One of the greatest examples of this New Testament principle is found in an Old Testament life. Joseph lived the principles of Romans 8:28 long before Paul was ever inspired to pen these words. God used Joseph's betrayal, imprisonment, and suffering to deliver His people and provide an area where they would maintain purity in preparation for the Promised Land. We never enjoy the trials and valleys of life, but they make us stronger Christians. God often uses our seasons of difficulty to teach us eternal truths that assist our everyday lives. We must learn to trust God and be thankful for each day, regardless of what it brings. [1 Thes.5:18 – In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.](#)

III. A Continual Promise (28) – [And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.](#) You may still be struggling to accept that all things are beneficial for the believer. I want to draw your attention to a particular word in the text: [together](#). God takes all of the things within our lives and orchestrates them together for our good. We may not see the benefit of a particular trial, but we are promised it is working together with others events and circumstances in our lives for our good.

- We like to think in the temporal aspect. If we don't understand, or can't see an immediate benefit, we assume that particular situation is of no value to us, rather a hindrance. God isn't limited by time or perception as we are. He is molding you into what He desires you to be, in His time and in His way. The promise of **all things** you claimed while on the mountain should be claimed in the valley as well. Just because we don't see the immediate benefit, doesn't mean God has forsaken His promise. He is continually working in our lives; we are a work in progress. His working in our lives is a continual process.

- Please allow me to share again my Romans 8:28 experience. At that particular time, I could see no benefit in that situation. However, God in His time worked that circumstance **together** with others for my good. The particular situation wasn't good, but God used it together with other circumstances for my good. [James 1:12 – Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.](#)

IV. A Conditional Promise (28) – [And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.](#) Paul reveals a key element in this promise: we are confident that all things will work together for good for those that love God. This is a wonderful promise, but it doesn't apply to all people. It is reserved for those who love God.

- The lost sinner can't claim this promise. The believer can face the trials and burdens of life knowing God will work all things together for his good. However, for the sinner, God often sends the trials and burdens of life as chastisement or punishment for sin. Such sovereign acts of God often cause the lost to become angry and bitter toward God. Trials often generate resentment toward God and impatience during difficult times. Storms often work to draw the believer closer to God as they depend upon Him, while the lost often harden their hearts and refuse to recognize the hand of God working in their lives.

- If you are saved, placed within the body of Christ, this promise is for you. You can claim it and draw strength from it. We will not always understand every situation or circumstance we face, but we can endure those times knowing God is working on our behalf. That makes a tremendous difference when facing trials and leads to peace in the midst of a storm.

V. A Calculated Promise (28) – [And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.](#) We must not overlook the last detail of this great and precious promise. All things are working together for the good of those who love the Lord and are called according to His purpose. God desires the saved to be transformed into the image of His Son. He desires that we grow and mature in Christ, living sanctified lives.

- Many like to think of God as one who pours out unending blessings without ever correcting His children. There will be many blessings received while walking this Christian journey, but God will also use correction and chastisement for the good of His people. We must realize that God is far more interested in our holiness than He is our happiness. He has a plan and purpose for each of our lives. He is working for our good and His glory. As we grow and mature in our faith, learning to trust and follow God regardless of circumstances, we become more like Christ our Lord.
- We must not lose sight of the eternal purpose of this precious promise. As we learn to see God's hand at work in every aspect of our lives, we are being transformed from a carnal perspective unto a spiritual perspective. We learn to trust God even when we don't sense immediate benefit for a particular situation. God uses the day to day circumstances to refine us, molding us into the image of His Son. We cannot lose sight of the sovereign hand of God at work continually in our lives. God sees the big picture, not only the trying moment of the present.

Conclusion: This is certainly one of my favorite verses in the Bible. It is special to me because I have experienced it. I will admit that it took several years for me to recognize that God was sovereignly working in my life, but I now see He was always there working things together for my good. Such knowledge and faith affects how I approach and respond to difficult situations now.

It is certainly a precious promise for those who love the Lord, but I also realize it is reserved for those who love the Lord. If you are unsaved, you can't claim this promise. I will admit that God often uses difficulty to draw people to Himself, and that is always a good thing. However, the lost cannot claim this promise, knowing everything will work together for their good. Do you know Christ as your Savior? If not, seek Him by faith and be saved.