

ROMANS 8:28 PART 1

REVIEW:

- We continue to explore this chapter which highlights the assurance of the believer and work of the Spirit for the believer both for now and eternity.
- Within it we find a full assurance, an absolute certainty of our ultimate final and complete salvation from all the fall and sin has ever done to us.
- Paul, having recently shown that suffering is not incompatible with a life of hope and joy, continues that theme here at vs. 28, with the knowledge that all things work together for good.

INTRO:

READ ROMANS 8:28-30

- Vs. 28 asserts the sovereign works of God for His children and Paul then goes on and explains, proves and demonstrates this statement in vs. 29-30.
- Vs. 28 can also be seen as a further encouragement and strengthening for perseverance during sufferings as seen in vs 17-18 as we suffer conflicts, seeing the promise of all things working together for good.
- These verses help to a greater understanding of the mysteries of suffering and the life of God's children.
- The whole rest of the chapter does the same.
- And now moving forward into vs. 28, but not leaving behind the lessons in earlier verses we continue to climb upwards toward the summit, the climax of this glorious chapter.
- Still receiving strengthening's and exhortations of St. Paul through the Holy Spirit, that tribulations, trials, pains and sufferings shall accompany the saint,
- yet it is infused with hope, a living hope, born of the Spirit of the resurrected Christ.
- So here in vs 28 Paul continues the saint's encouragement and reliance on the aid of the Holy Spirit of God.
- He who Jesus promised and sent, the Paraclete, the One who has come along side to help.

WE KNOW:

- It is critical to not miss the opening words, "and we know."
- **KNOW:** to know with an absolute knowledge birthed in the heart by the Holy Spirit.
- Some manuscripts read "we know that God works all things for good.... putting some emphasis on the One who works.
- Not coincidence, or luck, nor fate, but God.
- We see it is God who does the working together, who rules over all and everything, ordering and controlling everywhere according to His will and His purpose.
 - **Isa. 46:8-10**

ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER:

- **WORK TOGETHER:** to cooperate, to be partners in labors. To put forth power together.
- This thought of all things working together for good is hinted at earlier in Rom.
 - 5:3-5; but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces ^[a]perseverance; ⁴ and perseverance, ^[b]character; and character, hope. ⁵ Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.
- The life of a Christian can sometimes be a paradox.
- He is a man who can be absolutely certain about the ultimate, the eternal, regarding his future, even though at the present he may be totally uncertain of his present.
- We see a glimpse of this in vs. 26 we do not know how to pray as we ought...
- The mention of "all things" plainly draws our attention to include the sufferings. 17-25
- It is not that all things are good in themselves, the Apostle did not say that they are.
- But what Paul did say was, that God makes all things to work together for good.
- God can turn the wrath of man to His praise and can bring the fruit of joy out of the seeds of sorrow and though His will may be mysterious,
- It is never random, erratic or arbitrary and we can bow our heads and prostrate ourselves in faith trusting in our faithful loving Father.
- Oh, to have the heart and eye of faith, a faith that is enabled to see a little of the far-off harvest of the coming good.
- To have by faith some evidence of things not seen, to possess in the soul a earnest of the good to come. And to know.....
 - **2 Cor. 4:17-18.**

- To possess by grace a certainty that all these present perplexities of providence and suffering which are now so bewildering, will in that day dissolve in the light of His love, when sorrow, sighs and pain will flee away and our Lord will wipe all the tears from our eyes. (Rev. 21)
- The fact that we do not understand what or why something is happening to us in the present, we must not let it crush or extinguish our faith in the goodness of God or the certainty of the ultimate goal God has for us.
- We may say, I do not understand what or why this is happening to me, but I know in spite of my ignorance, in spite of everything I am experiencing, I know that it will all be for good in the end.
- Nothing can separate us from God's working all things for good as regards our ultimate blessings of life. All things become part of who God is making us.
 - **Gen. 50:19-21.**

LOVE GOD:

- We must notice at the start that this statement has a limitation.
- It does not state that all things work together for good for everyone.
- It says all things work together for good, only for the specific people revealed in the statement, not anyone else.
- A more literal translation of the original GK. would read much clearer, "*and we know that to the ones loving God and called, all things work together for good.*"
- It is boldly exclusive.
- We are reminded here that there is only real, one final and critical division of the human race, I am either on one side or the other, only two classes of people. There is no middle ground.
- Those who are born again and those who are not, those who have the Son have life, and those who do not have the Son do not have life. (1 Jn. 5:12)
- **LOVE:** a verb, agapao. Present tense active.
- Agape love is a selfless, unconditional, and sacrificial love that acts in the best interest of others, regardless of their merit or response. It is a deliberate choice and a commitment to action rather than just a feeling or emotion.
 - Rom. 5:8, But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
- Now the Christian demonstrates his love to God that we choose by love to lay our lives down for Him.
- The Christian love has God for its primary object and expresses itself first of all in implicit obedience to His commandments and will.
 - Jn. 14:15, if you love me keep my commandments. (John mentions this about 7X in his writings.)

CONCLUSION

THE CALLED:

HIS PURPOSE: