

## **ROMANS 8:28 PART 2**

### **REVIEW:**

### **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.

### **ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER:**

- **WORK TOGETHER:** to cooperate, to be partners in labors. To put forth power together.
- Sufferings are part of the "all things."
- 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.
- Lastly, by saying, "all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose is another way of saying "if God be for us, who or what can be against us?" VS. 31

### **INTRO:**

- These verses are written for our encouragement.
- The pinnacle of biblical truth...
- These verses are holy ground and when we approach them, we must be taught as Moses was in Ex. 3:1-5 when seeing the burning bush out of curiosity, he desired to come closer.
- But notice, we see God stops him, instructing him that no casual or curious approach is lawful, for this is holy ground and He and we must approach in awe and reverence.

## **TO THOSE 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 make this much clearer, *"and we know that to the ones loving God, all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose."*
- It is boldly and unapologetically exclusive.
- There are two qualifiers here and they are:
  - 1) Those who are loving God.
  - 2) Those who are the called.
- These two are connected as cause and effect. Because we have been called, we love God.
- God has always made distinctions between peoples.
  - His children and the children of wrath.
  - The nations vs. My people, a holy Nation. Etc.
- We see this throughout the whole of chapter 8. Vs.
- We are reminded here that there is only, 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)
- Now we come to the word
- **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.
- Notice Paul does not say to "those who believe on the Lord Jesus." Why? Because love is action, it is not a theory or something intellectual.
- Love here is in the present continuous tense, that is having loved, loving now and will still be loving.
- The way to know whether all this applies to us is to discover whether we conform to the description that is given here, it does not apply to everyone.
- Love is what sets the true Christian apart from others
- Now love demonstrates itself by what it chooses.
- The Christians' 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.)
- As we all know, to love God is the greatest commandment of all.

- Mt. 22:32-40
- Jn. 14:21;
- To love is deeper than emotion, though it is emotion.
- There is no value in just talking about love unless we are keeping God's commandments.
- Love is not theoretical; it is practical and out working. Love shows itself, displays itself by desiring to please God, to live for His glory, to keep His commandments.
  - She washed His feet with her tears. Lk. 7:36-50, Therefore I say to you, her sins, which *are* many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, *the same* loves little."
- Loving God is born out of His love; it is the fruit of His love toward us.

### THE CALLED:

- **CALLED:** The GK word is Kletos/KLAY TOSS; used 9x in the epistles. Used 4x in Rom.
  - Rom. 1:1, 6. 7. 8:28
- The calling here and elsewhere spoken of by the Apostles in the epistles, is the working in men of the everlasting purpose of God,
- Where by, before the foundations of the world was laid, God has decreed by His council, secret to man, to deliver from the curse and damnation, those whom He has chosen in Christ out of mankind and to bring them by Christ to everlasting salvation. (Henry Alford)
- This is proved out by reading the next 2 verses, the call is so effectual that from it follow to all the called justification, glorification.
- The verb "called" is always in the Epistles, is an effectual call, a call which achieves its purpose. And it produces a response of love to God who calls.
- Think of God's call in creation and Jesus' call to Lazarus. Effectual...
- This phrase, "the called" starts a sequence of strong technical expressions which are well known terms in Pauline theology. (vs 29, 30)
- Each phrase marks a stage or development in their heavenward pilgrimage and each seen from the perspective of God's choice, initiative and Gods care.
- St. Paul never spoke of the called simply as those who have heard the invitation of the gospel, but of those who have heard and thus their hearts have gone out in glad response to the welcome summons of grace.
  - 1 Cor. 1:23-24.
- It is for God to call; it is for man to respond.
- God's choice always precedes and goes before man's choice; whether or not man is conscious of it.
- Understanding the nature of this great effectual call, which may be unconscious to us, will humble us and teach us that we must thank Him whom we now love.

- This great truth humbles the pride of man and elevates the greatness, the mercy and the love of God. That's a big part why I appreciate it.
- The fact that anyone truly loves God is attributed solely to His sovereign grace.
  - We love Him because He first loved us. 1 Jn. 4:19.
- God's purpose precedes His call; the call is to facilitate His purpose.

### **HIS PURPOSE:**

- **PURPOSE:** The object, aim or end that God has set, a settled intention or design, a setting forth of a thing. It will be accomplished.
  - Eph. 1:11
- Used one more time in Rom. 9:11 and a total of 12x in N.T.
  - Eph. 3:11, 2 Tim. 1:9
- We see in this verse that God has a purpose in our calling, our salvation. He has an ultimate eternal plan. (Phil. 1:6)
- This gospel call is not "be saved" and then do your own thing, it is for and of His purpose.
  - Eph. 1:5, 1:9, 1:11.
- We see our path, our life has a purpose and it is God's purpose, for His glory.
- The path which we have freely followed is a path which had been mapped out for us in the purposes of God. (Heb. 12:1b) run the race SET before us.
- A final thought on "called." Why does Paul use this distinction or description for God's people? Because it is the only explanation of why these people love God.

### **CONCLUSION.**

- The guaranty that all things are working for my good in the final analysis is because the called are according to His purpose. His purposes cannot fail.
- All things to God's people will be, have been, shall be, according to God's purpose and He is good.
- The ultimate object of this verse is not that all things work for good to me, nor even that God is working things out for me, but that all things are for God's purpose. He is the center, the fountain of all good and what He purposes is the ultimate good.