

INTO THE FUTURE WITH FULL ASSURANCE

PART 14 ROMANS CHAPTER EIGHT

Romans 8:28 Berean Literal Bible

*And we know that God works together all things for good to **those loving God, to those being [The] called** according to His purpose.*

ONLY 'THE CALLED'

NOTICE TO WHOM THIS VERSE IS WRITTEN

THIS VERSE IS WRITTEN ONLY TO 'THE CALLED'

NB: The original Greek has the definite article 'the' Called. This makes 'called' no longer a verb, as someone who has been called to a task, but a noun, as someone designated as one of 'The Called' of God. See also:

Romans 1:6

*... Among whom you also are **the called** of Jesus Christ ...*

NB: THERE ARE NOT TWO TYPES OF CHRISTIANS MENTIONED HERE.

NB: 'Those who love God' and 'The Called' are the same people.

There are NOT two different categories of Christians spoken about here ... but two names for the same people. It means all those who are Born Again Believers in Jesus Christ.

HOWEVER, THIS VERSE IS NOT FOR EVERYONE ...

IT IS NOT FOR THOSE WHO ARE NOT 'THE CALLED' ...

IT IS NOT FOR THOSE WHO REFUSE TO BELIEVE.

IN GOD'S EYES THERE ARE ONLY TWO TYPES OF PEOPLE ON THE PLANET ...

These are not Democrats and Republicans ... not males and females ... not 'thems that have' and 'thems that don't' ... not black and white ...

THERE ARE ONLY THOSE WHO BELIEVE AND THOSE WHO REFUSE TO BELIEVE ...

PEOPLE GOD KNOWS AND UNKNOWN UNBELIEVERS ... **SLIDE**

THE SHEEP AND THE GOATS ...

THOSE WHO HAVE 'THE LIFE' AND THOSE WHO DO NOT HAVE LIFE. (1 John 5:12)

So, 'All Things' are working together for good for 'The Called'.

But 'All Things' are NOT working for good for those who are NOT 'The Called'.

Things are NOT gonna 'work out fine' as James Taylor sang. ('Shower The People')

Or as Bob Marley sang ... 'Don't worry about a thing, Cause every little thing gonna be all right.'

IT'S NOT GONNA BE ALRIGHT!

There is a trendy, managerial, leadership acronym also used by the American military:

SLIDE It's V.U.C.A Times

It stands for 'Volatile, Uncertain, Complex and Ambiguous' Times.

This is the real view of the future for all who Do Not Believe.

BUT TO THE CALLED WHO LOVE GOD, **WE KNOW** THAT NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS ...

GOD IS WORKING ALL THINGS TOGETHER FOR GOOD.

works all things together (synergei)

Verb To cooperate with, work together. From sunergos; to be a fellow-worker

'WE KNOW'

Romans 8:28 Berean Literal Bible **SLIDE**

*And **we know** that God works together all things for good to those loving God, to those being [The] called according to His purpose.*

NB: We ... this is us ... Paul and the Romans and the church at Helensvale ...

Know = (eidōmen) **Verb - Perfect Subjunctive Active** - To know, remember, appreciate.

THIS IS OUR MINDS CONCLUSION

NB: PREVIOUSLY IN VERSES 26-27 WE ARE TOLD **WHAT WE DON'T KNOW** ...

Romans 8:26 (Same Word) **SLIDE**

*Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses, **for we do not know** what we should pray for as we ought ...*

As mentioned in our last message on Romans Chapter 8, PART 13, 'The One Who Comes Alongside' –

We pray wrong ... 'Lord get me out of this situation please' and 'Lord show me what I need to do!' - often to no avail ...

BUT, IF WE KNOW THAT WE DON'T KNOW and we leave it to the Holy Spirit ... We are on the right track. But meanwhile our mind and emotions are screaming, 'What's going on here?'

FROM ROMANS 8:28 WE CONCLUDE IN OUR THINKING SOMETHING WE ALREADY PERCEIVE IN OUR SPIRIT: WE CONCLUDE IN OUR THINKING THAT 'WE KNOW GOD IS WORKING ALL THINGS TOGETHER FOR GOOD'.

HOW DO WE KNOW?

- **WE KNOW THROUGH HIS HOLY SPIRIT IN US ...**

1 Corinthians 2:12 **SLIDE**

*Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, **that we might know** the things that have been freely given to us by God.*

1 John 2:20

But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things.

YOU KNOW MORE THAN YOU THINK YOU KNOW.

SLIDE If we listen in our spirit we will hear Him speaking gentle words of comfort ...

'It's OK ... You are in My plan ... I am with You ... I will sustain you in this ...

You are My chosen ... the Father is well pleased with you ...

There is great treasure here in this place ... the best is yet to come ...'

OVERWHELMING WORDS OF PEACE, REST, HOPE, DESIRE, JOY ...

WHILST YOU ARE STILL IN THE 'ALL THINGS' (Romans 8:28)

WE ARM OURSELVES WITH THIS MIND ...

WHAT DO WE KNOW?

Romans 8:28 Berean Literal Bible **SLIDE**

*And we know that **God works together all things** for good to those loving God, to those being [The] called according to His purpose.*

WE SEE HERE THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD AND THAT 'GOD IS ACROSS THE WHOLE THING'.

- That '**All Things**' are not just randomly happening.

The Old King James Version, as with many other versions, doesn't convey the right thought when it reads, '**All things work together for good**'; giving the impression that God looks down at the mess we get ourselves in and the random circumstances the world brings our way and says, '*Oh dear, I'd better try and make some good out of all these negative things this poor person is going through.*' Of course this takes time as God juggles with '**All Things**'. This puts God in a response mode reacting to what '**All Things**' do as if they take God unaware.

BUT THE ORIGINAL WRITINGS PUT **GOD IN CONTROL OF OUR CIRCUMSTANCES** AS WE READ ABOVE, '**GOD WORKS ALL THINGS TOGETHER**' OR - GOD IS WORKING ALL THINGS TOGETHER.

GOD IS ALL OVER THIS VERSE. LOOK AT IT ...

***God** is working / **God** has designed a purpose (His purpose) / **God** has a people (those loving God) **God** has chosen and called these people to His purpose (The Called).*

THERE IS NOTHING RANDOM ABOUT THIS VERSE AT ALL ... GOD IS ACROSS IT ALL.

THIS MUST BE WHERE WE START.

SOME MAY SAY, '*OH I KNOW **GOD IS AWARE OF OUR CIRCUMSTANCES***'.

They think He is maybe watching us from a distance ... seeing how we conduct ourselves ...

But, here we are told ... God is not only aware of our situation ...

GOD IS ACTIVELY WORKING IN ALL OUR CIRCUMSTANCES ... THE GOOD ONES AND THE BAD.

When it says, '*God works*' we are being told, **GOD IS ACTIVE.**

GOD IS PRESENT AND GOD IS ACTIVE IN ALL YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES ... BOTH POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE. Jesus said it like this:

Matthew 10:29, 31

*Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground **apart from your Father's will.** ³¹ Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.*

So, we look into a looming future with confidence: Not confidence in our own natural ability ... not in our financial stability ... not in our personality ... not because of our position ...

WE LOOK: KNOWING HE KNOWS ... KNOWING HE CARES ... KNOWING HE IS INVOLVED ... KNOWING HE IS IN CONTROL ... KNOWING WE ARE IN HIS PURPOSE.

The Born Again believer doesn't go forward in life in ignorance.

The Born Again Believer goes forward with A DIVINE CERTAINTY.

He or she might not know the details of what is ahead ... but they know with certainty several things ...

I might not know what the future holds, but I know Who holds the future.

GOD WORKS ALL THINGS ... NOT JUST GOOD THINGS

Romans 8:28 Berean Literal Bible **SLIDE**

*And we know that God works together **all things** for good to those loving God, to those being [The] called according to His purpose.*

SO GOD WORKS ALL THINGS ... NOT JUST GOOD THINGS – hard times ... times of trial ... times of suffering – God also uses these for good for us ...

NB: THESE CIRCUMSTANCES ARE NOT GOOD IN THEMSELVES BUT GOD USES THEM FOR OUR GOOD.

*On the road to Damascus **Saul was blinded by God** ... so he would come to a place where he would really see (Acts 9). He became Paul the greatest theologian of all time.*

Joel 2:25 **SLIDE**

*So I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the crawling locust, the consuming locust, and the chewing locust, **My great army which I sent among you.***

Yet to some hyper-Pentecostals you'd think the devil is arranging all these circumstances and that God is sitting back shaking His head at our lack of faith and wisdom ... our lack of power to get out of it and the lack of effort we put into the fight.

In Psalm 23 we end up in the 'Valley of the Shadows', not because we walked away from the Shepherd, but because we followed Him ...

And what is the conclusion of following the shepherd through the darkness?

Psalm 23:5-6 **SLIDE**

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; my cup runs over. ⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me ALL the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

GOD IS WORKING FOR OUR ULTIMATE **GOOD**

Romans 8:28 Berean Literal Bible **SLIDE**

*And we know that God works together all things **for good** to those loving God, to those being [The] called according to His purpose.*

YOU SAY, WHY DOESN'T HE JUST TAKE IT AWAY ...?

BECAUSE IT IS WORKING FOR YOUR GOOD ... AND YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT IS GOOD FOR YOU. These times are necessary to actually bring about 'God's Good' in us.

LOOK AT THE SUFFERING OF JOSEPH, AND AFTER HIS SUFFERING WHAT HE SAID:

Genesis 50:20 (Christian Standard Bible) **SLIDE**

*You planned evil against me; **God planned it for good** to bring about the present result-- the survival of many people. (Also [Genesis 45:7](#))*

God used man's evil plan to bring about God's plan.

Not only the physical outcome but look at the change of attitude in Joseph. His character had changed from the prideful young upstart to the one who wept and forgave his brothers.

The latter end of Job was greater than his former:

Job 42:12 **SLIDE**

Now the LORD blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning ...

WHAT IS THIS GOOD?

[the] good (agathon) Adjective - Accusative Neuter Singular A primary word; 'good'.

GOOD OUT OF DESTRUCTIVE CHEMOTHERAPY (An Example)

When I had cancer I was infused with chemotherapy. (It is an evil thing developed from 'Germ Warfare'.) ... It made me weak and sick ... It zapped all my ability and strength ... my hair fell out. (It certainly wasn't good for my appearance.)

*If you didn't **know** what was going on, you would have thought this was detrimental to my health and yet it was actually good for my ultimate wellbeing ... **IT WORKED FOR MY GOOD.***

IT ACTUALLY SAVED ME!

EVEN THOUGH IT WAS PAINFUL ... UNCOMFORTABLE ... SEEMINGLY DETRIMENTAL TO ME, IT ULTIMATELY WORKED FOR GOOD.

Why did I submit to this? BECAUSE I **KNEW** IT WAS AN EVIL THING WORKING FOR GOOD.

SO IT IS WITH GOD WORKING 'ALL THINGS' FOR OUR GOOD.

Philippians 1:6 Berean Study Bible **SLIDE**

Being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will continue to perfect it (in 2020) until the day of Christ Jesus.

God hasn't changed His purpose for you in 2020.

WE KNOW ... THERE IS NOTHING WE CAN GO THROUGH THAT GOD IS NOT INVOLVED IN AND HE IS WORKING IT FOR YOUR GOOD.