

ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD

ROMANS 8:28 • TV214A

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Romans 8:28

“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.”

I am speaking today from the book of **Romans the 8th chapter verse 28.**

This is a verse of Scripture, which is quoted often by religious people everywhere but so often it is misquoted, misused, and misapplied.

I want you to listen to it, it is a familiar Scripture from **Romans the 8th chapter verse 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.”*

While people quote this verse of Scripture, they quote it everywhere for any occasion, especially, death, sickness, or tragedy. But, this is the way they quote it: *“We know that all things work together for good.”*

Very seldom do we ever hear this verse quoted as it is really appears in the Word of God, very seldom. I want you to listen carefully; unfortunately this is true of many Scriptures which are quoted by people, but they are only quoted in part.

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When these verses are quoted only in part they totally lose their true meaning. Let me give you some examples:

First of all, how many of you have heard this verse of Scripture quoted? *“Him that cometh to me, I will in no wise cast out.”* That is what the Bible says, it says; *“him that cometh to me, I will in no wise cast out.”*

That is not what the Bible says. In **John 6:37** it says, *“All that the Father giveth to me shall come to me, and him that cometh to Me, I will in no wise cast out.”*

This is a part of a sentence; this is part of a statement made by our Lord Jesus Christ in the **6th chapter of John**. He says, *“All that My Father giveth me shall come to me and him that cometh, (that is, those that the Father hath given me), I will in no wise cast out.”*

Here is another; listen to this Scripture; it is found over in **2nd Peter Chapter 3:9**; listen to this; I know that you have heard this: *“Well, you know that God is not willing that any should perish.”*

That is not in God’s Word. You may say that you know it is because you have heard it all of your life. I beg your pardon; let me read it to you from the Scripture: **In 2nd Peter 3:9**; listen, *“the Lord is not slack concerning His promise as some men count slackness but is long suffering to us-ward.”*

Peter is talking to the church; he is talking to believers. He is talking to the children of God. *“The Lord is long suffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”*

That is what that Scripture says; it does not say that God is not willing. The name of God is in the upper part of the Scripture. There are many words between *“the Lord”* and His *“not willing.”* *“The Lord is long suffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”*

Here is another one that you hear: *“You know the Scripture says, ‘Whosoever will, may come.’”* No! I didn’t know that the Scripture said that. In fact, to be honest, the Scripture does not say that, not anywhere. *“Whosoever will may come;”* it does not say that at all.

If a man is willing to come to Christ, made willing by the Spirit of God, made willing by the work of grace, the thought is true and the principle is true. If a man is willing to come to Christ; come on!

The Bible does not say that in those words, *“Whosoever will, may come.”* I know that it is a song, *“Whosoever Will, May Come,”* but it is not Scripture. That is found in

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Revelation 22:17; listen to it again, “*and the spirit and the bride say come and let him that heareth say, come.*”

Give the invitation; cry unto people to come and “*let him that is athirst,*” the thirsty man, the hungry and weary man, the man who has a need, who needs the Redeemer; “*let him that heareth say come. Let him that is athirst come and whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.*”

Do you see what I am saying? We have made religious clichés out of God’s Word and we have made it fit to our convenience. We have made it fit what we want to believe.

I could give you so many more like these verses I just quoted to you. You hear people say, “Well; the Bible says, ‘cleanliness is next to godliness.’” The Bible does not say that; nowhere in the Scripture does it say that. That is a saying that came out of Poor Richard’s Almanac.

Some of the things that men attribute to the Bible are just not in the Word of God at all. The Scripture that we are on today, “*all things work together for good;*” you cannot say that the Bible says that because the Bible does not say that. It does not say that at all; it is just not in God’s Word.

There are conditions that hedge about this promise and conditions upon which this promise rests. You have to quote the whole Scripture. “*And we know that all things work together for good to them who love God, to them who are the called, according to his purpose.*”

My friends; you cannot honestly claim any promise in the Word of God. You cannot claim any promise in the Scriptures unless, to some degree, you meet the condition laid down in that promise. Now that is so and any liberal minded person will have to admit that.

Listen to these examples:

Our Lord said, “*Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*”

Now rest is the promise. What is the condition? There are two conditions:
First of all: If you are laboring and are heavy laden, if you are weary and bowed down with sin.

Secondly: If you will come.

There are two conditions there. Our Lord certainly has rest; is willing to give rest and has sufficient rest. There is the condition that you have to meet. You have to have a need and you have to come.

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Listen to this Scripture: *“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shall be saved.”* Now, salvation is the promise. What is the condition? The condition is to believe.

No man is going to be saved that does not believe. *“He that believeth not on the Son shall not see life but the wrath of God abideth on him. He that believeth on the Son hath life.”*

Listen to this Scripture: *“Ask and it shall be given you. Seek and ye shall find. Knock and it shall be opened to you.”*

Yes, it shall be given. You will be found and it will be opened, but only if you ask, if you seek, and if you knock.

The verse of Scripture that is before us is our text in **Romans 8:28**. It is the greatest promise in the Word of God; yes it is. It is one of the sweetest promises that are given to the child of God.

It presents a definite condition that you cannot avoid, that you cannot get around, and a condition that is so positive that you cannot claim the promise unless you meet the condition.

Listen to it again: *“And we know that all things work together for good to them **who love God** and (only to them and to no one else), to them who are the called according to His purpose.”*

There are two things that I want us to consider in this message:

First of all: I want us to consider the conditions, the conditions of the promise, those conditions that protect it, and those conditions that hedge it about.

The first condition is this and you see it already; if you have your Bible open, if you have followed me in this message, it says; *“All things work together for good to them who love God.”*

Here you have a description of the people to whom the promise applies. Here you have a description of the people for whom the promise is given. Here you have a description of the people for whom everything, all things, bar nothing, work together for their good, those who love God.

My friends, it may come as a surprise to you; it may come as a shock to you, but all men do not love God. In fact, according to the Scripture, no unsaved, unregenerate man loves God, not according to God’s Word.

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Our Lord Jesus Christ said this; *“if you are not for me you are against me.”* To be for Christ you certainly have to be regenerated, you certainly have to be a believer and you certainly have to be saved. *“If you are not for me you are against me.”*

No unregenerate, unsaved man loves God. He may love the God of his imagination. I know that there is someone sitting out there right now saying, “Well; I don’t hate God. I think I can say that I love God.” Which God, which God are you claiming to love? Which God are you claiming to serve?

Every man loves “his god.” The heathen in the heart of the jungle loves his god, but not the true and living God. You will find that pagan idolaters love their god but not the God of the Bible.

An unregenerate man may love a god of his imagination. He may love the god of his tradition. He may love the god of his religious superstitions. According to the Scriptures (and this is what we are preaching; this is the foundation of our faith and practice), he does not love the eternal, almighty, living, God.

I will show you that from God’s Word: First of all: In **Romans 8:7**, it says; *“The carnal (natural) mind; (that is not the spiritual mind; that is the natural mind, the flesh, human beings), the carnal mind is enmity against God.”* Enmity hates God; the natural mind hates the God of the Bible.

It does not hate its own god, its idols and false god, the god of its imagination, the superstitions, the god that is whittled out with its own pin-knife, but that natural mind hates the living God, the sovereign, almighty, living God.

Listen to **James 4:4**: *“The friendship of this world is enmity against God. Whosoever would be the friend of this world; (listen to the Scripture), is God’s enemy.”* That is what God’s Word says.

Listen to this: Christ said, *“The world hateth me.”* He said to His disciples; *“Don’t be amazed if the world hates you. The world hated me before it hated you.”*

Over in the **Book of Isaiah** in the promise of the Messiah’s coming, (God incarnate), Isaiah wrote; *“He is despised and rejected of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.”*

No, my friends; the natural mind, the natural man, does not love God. He loves a god or some god or any god but not the living, almighty, eternal God.

God is loved for who He is, not who we think He is. God is loved as He is revealed in His Word, not as He comes to us in a vision or in imagination or an idea.

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You might say, “Well; this is the way that I think God is.” That’s all right and that is your business. You may claim to love that god. Don’t claim allegiance to the true and living God because the true and living God must be loved for who He is, not who you think He is.

The believer loves God. “*All things work together for good to them who love God.*” The believer truly loves the living God. He loves God in which I will give you several ways:

First of all: He loves God as Sovereign.

Job went through all of his trials and difficulties and through all of these traumatic experiences. He was told by his wife to curse God and die. She said, “*Why don’t you just curse God and die?*” He said, “*Though He slay me, I will trust Him, I will love Him.*”

He said to another group; “*The Lord hath given and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.*” In all of this, “*Job did not charge God with foolishness.*”

He loved God as Sovereign. Whatever God did, Job loved Him for it. That is the true and living God. He is loved for who He is. If you can’t love God as a Sovereign God then you can’t love the living God, because He is Sovereign.

If you can’t love God who does as He will, when He will, with whom He will, then you can’t love the God of the Bible. You love the god of your imagination but not the God of the Bible.

He has to be loved for who He is because “*He changes not.*” He is not one thing to one person and something else to someone else. He is the same “*yesterday, today, and forever.*” You love Him for who He is.

Secondly: The believer loves God not only as Sovereign, but as Creator.

John 1 says; “*In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God. All things were made by Him; without Him was not anything made that was made.*”

No evolutionists can love God. He may love a god. He may love an idol but he can’t love the living God because the living God in Scripture says; “*In Him were all things created that are in heaven, that are on earth, visible and invisible. He is before all things. By Him all things consist.*”

That is the living God. If you can’t love Him as He is revealed in His person and in His attributes and character, then you don’t love God.

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Thirdly: The believer loves God as King of providence, total King of providence.

I like Hannah's prayer in **1 Samuel 2:6**. This is the way that Hannah prayed; *"the Lord killeth and the Lord maketh alive. The Lord bringeth down to the grave and the Lord bringeth up. The Lord maketh poor and the Lord maketh rich. He bringeth low and He lifteth up."* This is to love God for who He is and whatever He does.

Eli said this when he received the message from God's prophet, that God would destroy his family; *"it is the Lord; let him do what he will."* There is a man who loves God because God is going to do as He will.

"He doeth according to his will in the armies of heaven among the inhabitants of this earth." He gives account to none of His creatures. *"None can stay His hand or say unto him, what doest Thou?"*

You might say, "That is not my god; that is my devil." Ok, have it like you will but that is the God of the Bible. *"He creates good and evil. He creates light and darkness."* *"Man's days are numbered and they are in His hands; the number of his months is with the Lord; he cannot pass. his bounds are set."*

That's the God of the Bible. You might say, "That God is a monster." Then get ready to meet a monster at the Judgment because that is the God of Judgment; that is the God of the Bible.

You see, man reveals his hatred when God reveals Himself. Man loves his god. He loves what he thinks God is like. He loves what he wants God to be like. He loves what his preacher says God's like and he will not bow to what God says about Himself. Therefore, he hates God.

Listen to this; the Scripture says this, Thomas fell at the feet of Jesus Christ, Jesus of Nazareth. He looked up into His face and said; *"my Lord and my God."* The believer loves God incarnate, in Christ. That's right, incarnate (God manifest in the flesh).

Peter said this; *"Thou knowest all things. Thou knowest that I love Thee."* The Scripture says, *"If any man love not our Lord Jesus Christ; let him be accursed."*

My friends; I know that there are a lot of folks around who say, "I believe in God but I don't believe in Jesus. I believe in God but I don't believe in Jesus Christ. I believe in God but I don't believe that Jesus Christ is God at all."

You can't know God and you can't love God apart from Jesus Christ. *"No man has seen the Father anytime, save the Son, and He to whomsoever the Son will reveal Him."* If you don't love the image of God revealed in Christ, then you don't love God at all. Christ is the very image of God.

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If you don't love Him who reveals God then you don't love God because God is revealed in Christ. *"Show us the Father,"* the disciples said. Christ said, *"He that hath seen me hath seen the Father."*

Do you love Christ? You have to love Christ if you love God because God is in Christ. Here is the condition: *"And we know that all things work together for good,* (to whom, for whom), *"to them that love God?"* It's not a god, some god, any god or an idol god. It is not a presumed god, traditional god, a religious god, a denominational god or your god, but God who is God. The Lord our God is one God.

You better find out who He is, because you may not love Him. You better find out what He says about Himself. You may be one of those that say, *"Who is the Lord that I should obey His voice?"* That is what Pharaoh said.

The second conditions are these:

"All things work together for good to them who love God, them who are the called according to His purpose." They are called by His spirit. They are called by His Word; *"he that heareth the Word and believeth on him that sent me."*

They are called by His Gospel *"which is the power of God unto salvation."* We are called out of the darkness of unbelief into the light of illumination, enlightenment, and revelation.

They are called to repentance toward God. They are called toward faith in Jesus Christ. They are called with a holy calling, called of God.

Read the following verses and listen to this: *"All things work together for good to them who love God* (as He is revealed in His Word and in His Son), *and they are the called according to His purpose."*

Listen to the rest of that: *"For, whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son that He (Christ) might be the firstborn among many brethren. And whom he did predestinate, he called. And whom he called he justified and whom he justified, he glorified."*

My friends; there is a general call that is heard by all men. Yes sir, God has not left Himself without a witness. Every human being born into this world, in some way, has an encounter with God. That's right!

Every human being born into this world, *"He's one with whom we have to do."* An encounter is there.

Here is the first way: *"The heavens declare the glory of God."*

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Their voice is heard in every language. There isn't any man anywhere (except blind people) who have not seen the sun, the moon, and the stars and the heavens and the things that are made. That's right! God's glory is revealed in the heavens.

Secondly: God's glory is revealed in the things that are made, such as the creation. *"How wonderfully I am made," David said.*

Everything about us, says "God made this." Oh, it is so amazing, so great, and so wonderful, the things that God has made.

Thirdly: Every man is born with a conscience; I don't care who he is.

The Law of God is written on the conscience of every human being. There isn't a human being that at sometime in his life has not realized something is wrong; by whose standards?

Who gave him the standards of right and wrong? God did; He wrote it on his heart. The law of God is written on the heart. Then, there is the light of the preached Word.

So; the Scripture says, *"we are without excuse."* We have not walked in the light that God has given us. There is light of creation, the light of heaven's glories, the light of conscience, the light of the law, and **the light of the preached Word**. That is a general call heard by all men and heeded by none.

This Scripture is talking about an effectual call. You might say, "What does that word mean?" It means that it gets the job done. Christ said, *"My sheep will hear my voice and they will come unto me and they will follow me."*

They are called of God. They are called by power. They are called by His Spirit. They are called by His Word. They are called to faith in Jesus Christ. That's right!

We are born of His Spirit. Paul said, *"God separated me from my mother's womb and called me by His grace."* Christ said, *"He that heareth my word and believeth on Him that sent me hath everlasting life."* These are the conditions of the promise; do you hear them? *"And we know that all things work together for good to them who love God, to them who are the called."*

Has He called you through His Word? If He has you have heard and you have responded.

Here is the promise: Quote it, can you quote it? *"And we know,"* that is the way it starts. How do we know? Here is the way we know it; that promise is based on the Word of God. We know it because God said so.

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We believe it because God Almighty has declared it. Just like Job said, “*I know that my Redeemer liveth.*” Like Paul said, “*I know whom I have believed.*” John said, “*We know that we have passed from death unto life.*” That is something we know.

How do we know it? Did we dream it? Was it just handed down from father to son? No sir, we have the authority of His blessed Word. This is what God has said.

What I have been trying to preach today, I have authenticated it by the Word of God. I have proven it by the Scriptures. I have made a statement; I said, “This is what the Bible says.”

That is the reason we know. What do we know? We know that all things; what are all things? Well, some say that it is the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Exactly, it is the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit because God certainly does His will in all things and He is the first cause of all things.

Some say, “This is all things as in the following verses,” “*what shall we say to these things?*” It is God’s foreknowledge, God’s predestination, God’s election, God’s calling, and God’s justification. Well, that is true; “*if God be for us, who can be against us?*”

Some say, “Well; that means that all things in birth, life, and death. Every minute detail of a believer’s life, whether it be good or bad, whether it be painful or joyful, whether it be sorrow or happiness, whether it be success or failure, whether it be disease or death, it is ‘*all things.*’”

That means Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. That means all things in heaven and on earth. That means all things as far as the Scripture is concerned and the Word of God is concerned. That means all things that happen in my life from the day I was born until the day I die, will “*work together.*”

What do you mean, “*work together?*” Well; I am saying this, nothing in God’s providence works separately from God’s purpose. All of these things “*work together,*” they don’t work separately; they work together.

Too much sorrow would lead me to despair. Too much joy would intoxicate me. Too much success would exhaust me. Too much failure would discourage me. All these things in God’s good providence “*work together.*” God knows just how much of what to bring to me for my good.

Now, the word “*good;*” there are several uses of the word “*good.*” This word here is not material good, contrary to what most of the TV preachers are telling you. Some of God’s people are poor; they are materially poor; they don’t have much.

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John Bunyan was one. I could name you thousands of others along with some of you who are listening to me. You might say, “Well; I must not have much faith because I don’t have much material possession.” Don’t pay any attention to that foolishness. That is all that is, a pack of foolishness.

We are not talking about physical good. Some of God’s people are sick. Some of God’s people have pain. All of God’s people will eventually die. Some of God’s people suffer.

We are not talking about temporal good. *“The fashion of this world will pass away. What will it profit me if I gain the whole world and lose my soul?”* We are talking about a two-fold good. *“All things work together for good,”* the spiritual good, growth, grace, and the eternal good and glory of His people.

Everything that God Almighty does, everything that God purposes, everything that God in providence brings to pass in my life, past, present, and future, good and bad; everything because we love God, *“because we are the called according to His purpose,”* work together for our spiritual good, growth, and grace and our eternal good. We are going to be like Christ!