*All things for Good*

Romans 8: 28-30

28 *And we knew that in all things God works for the good of those who love, who have been called according to* ***HIS*** *purpose.*

This is one of the most loved promises in the entire Bible. Perhaps more than any other promise in the Bible, this verse has helped people trust God through experiences that seemed utterly pointless and painful. We believe that, sooner or later, the sorrows, pains, disappointments and losses will work together for good. Paul here is not saying that all things are good, but instead all things are turned by God for good. There are 2 things that need to be true for this promise to apply to you: 1) that you love God and 2) that you are called according to His purpose.

Paul is saying that for believers – the called, those whose hearts have brought from enmity to love for God – all things work for good all the time.

Here our love is subjective, God’s call is objective. Our love is our act, and God’s call is his act.

The call of God according to His purpose is part of the massive, deep, unshakeable foundation Paul is laying in Romans 8 that keeps this promise from falling and makes it believable.

*29 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.*

*30 And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.*

These verses are the foundations for the promise of the earlier verse 28. Paul said, we know all things – the bitter things and the sweet things – work for our good because those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brothers. Three acts of God are seen in these words, 1) He foreknew 2) He predestined, and 3) We become conformed to Christ. Two of these are past (foreknew and predestined) and one of them is present and future (conforming us to the image of Christ).

*God’s All Conquering Love*

Romans 8: 31-39

These closing verses of Romans chapter 8 provide the pinnacle of Paul’s defense of the Gospel. He has powerfully contested every argument that could have been brought against the concept of justification by faith alone. Paul, through the inspiration of the Spirit of God, asks this important question*, “What shall we then say to these things?”* And then he answers with a rhetorical question, *“If God be for us, who can be against us?”* Look at how amazing the love of God is! Look at what He has done for us in the Gospel! With all that was against us, look at how He saved us! Not only that look at what He gave us! He gave us everything – His own Son! And if He didn’t spare Jesus, but delivered Him up for us, then how can He not give us all things freely? The summation here is that God is in control, He loves us, and because of that, nothing can separate us from His love. His love conquers all.

* God’s love has conquered all things against us before salvation (Romans 8: 33-34)
* God’s love conquers all things against us now (Romans 8: 35-37)
* God’s love will continue to conquer all things that will arise against us (Romans 8: 38 – 39)

We may have to face various hardships in life such as illness, financial instability, persecution, and even death. These could cause us to fear that we have been abandoned by Christ. But Apostle Paul exclaims that it is impossible to be separated by Christ. His death for us is proof of his unconquerable love. Nothing can stop Christ’s constant presence with us. God tells us how great his love is so that we will feel totally secure in him.