

Romans part 9

Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose.

- What is the context of this verse? Suffering. Weakness. The state of creation. Being on this world. God does not cause suffering any more than He causes weakness, but He allows both because of the state of creation.
- But God uses all these things to bring about good. So no matter what we are going through, God is working in it. Even if we caused it.
- Of course, God's good is that we are to become more like Him.
- This does not mean that bad things won't happen. And it does not mean that the good is also enjoyable. Vegetables are good for me, I don't always enjoy them.

Romans 8:29-30 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be conformed to the image of His Son*, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. ³⁰ Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

- God's complete work is contained in this connection – foreknew, predestined, called, justified, glorified. This takes us from the past, through the present into the future.
- This is not a Calvinistic verse about predestination.
- Who is Paul talking to in this passage? Believers. (Romans is to the believers in Rome, also Romans 8:28 is addressing those who love God and are called according to His purpose). Paul is not addressing non-believers. We cannot try to prove a negative with this passage.
- God foreknew everyone. He knew all of us before we were conceived. He then set up a destiny for us to be born again and raised to eternal life. Jesus first, then all of us afterwards. Note that he says Jesus is the firstborn of many brethren. This is a nod to our primary purpose of

being children of God and co-heirs with Christ. That is everyone's predestination.

- Yes, you have a destiny. Your destiny is fulfilled when you enter into God's family.
- However, not everyone will fulfill their destiny. That's the next part of this chain of events.
- He called us. Not everyone answers the call. We are given choice.
 - **1 Timothy 2:3-4** For this *is* good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.
 - He desires it, but will not force it. We have free choice.
- Those that answered the call are justified. Made righteous.
- We have covered this – but a reminder – you are righteous. He did not give you a promise that if you confess, or if you cease from sin, or if you do whatever you would be righteous. He made you righteous.
 - The same way you cannot predestine yourself, call yourself, glorify yourself, you also cannot justify yourself. Ever.
- And then one day we will be glorified. A new body. No mortality. And no more sin since sin resides in the flesh.
- This is all done with the intent that we would be made like Christ. Conformed into His image.

Romans 8:31-34 What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *can be* against us? ³² He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? ³³ Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? *It is* God who justifies. ³⁴ Who *is* he who condemns? *It is* Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.

- So what is the conclusion of all this? If God is for us, how can any be against us, or rather, what does it matter if any is against us?
 - First of all, God has freely given us all things, even offering up His own son
 - Who can tell us we are guilty? God declared us as justified.
 - If anyone is shaming you, they are standing in defiance of God Himself. If God declares you righteous, who is going to stand against Him and defy what is true?
 - Who can go against God and try to condemn us? Christ completed this work in us. No one is powerful enough to undo the work of Christ.
 - The person that declares guilt and shame or condemnation is basically saying that Jesus on the cross was insufficient.
 - Jesus died, and rose. How could anyone dare come against that and say it did not remove our sin?
 - And, Christ is interceding for us to become more like Him. Who better to have praying for us?

Romans 8:35-36 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *Shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter."

- There is nothing that can separate us from the love of Christ. Since He completed all of the work, only He could undo it. And He won't.
- And of course Paul is giving the Roman believers a reality check. They are facing very intense persecution under the Roman government. And they are being killed. This is why the hope of heaven is so important. This is a very encouraging passage for believers.
- But what he is saying here is so important. Nothing can separate us from God's love.

- Tribulation, persecution, famine, danger... all these things some people interpret that when they are happening it shows that God does not love us.
 - But Paul says that in the midst of these things we can see God's love even more fiercely than in time of prospering.
 - I have seen people sick and dying that knew more of the love of God than I ever have.
 - Remember, the Gospel is more suited for bringing rejoicing in times of hardship than in easy times.

Romans 8:37-39 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- What is more than a conqueror? Daniel's story about Evander Holifield.
 - We are more than conquerors because we receive the benefit without having to do the fighting.
 - If you find yourself fighting – enter into the rest of Jesus.
- Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ. Death does not separate us, but neither does living here on this earth. No spiritual being can do it. Nothing in time can do it. Nothing created can do it.
- This is Christ reconciling the world to God.

What does this all mean?

God did all the work. If anyone accuses, shames or condemns you, that is going against God Himself. You did not declare yourself righteous, God did. And He did the work for it.

God loves you/ God is for you. Nothing can change that.

Chapter 1 – God reveals Himself, but man rejected Him, suppressed the truth and descended into depravity.

Chapter 2 – We cannot earn righteousness apart from God.

Chapter 3 – We are born into sin. But there is hope. Jesus came to save us by His death, burial, and resurrection.

Chapter 4 – We have obtained righteousness. But not by our works, by Jesus' work. Our righteousness is now based on our faith in Jesus.

Chapter 5 – We are at peace with God. And we have been transferred out of the line of Adam and into the line of Christ.

Chapter 6 – We are dead to sin and alive to God.

Chapter 7 – We are free from the law. But we still may struggle with sin because of our flesh. But we are spirit. We are not our flesh.

Chapter 8 – There is no condemnation for those that believe. God has done all the work and there is nothing that can change that or separate us from Him.