

Morning Sermon November 22, 2015
"Thank God for Everything"
Romans 8:28-29; 1 Thessalonians 5:18

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.** ²⁹ **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. (Romans 8:28-29 NKJ)**

¹⁸ **in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. (1Thessalonians 5:18 NKJ)**

I. **What "all things works together" means –**

1. *All things should not be restricted, "all things" here is comprehensive terminology. It literally means that EVERYTHING that happens in a true believer's life is going to work together for good!*

A. *It is important when reading such broad general statements in Scripture to remember the words are God's Word, inspired by His Holy Spirit. The words are intentionally and perfectly broad and general because they are meant to be.*

B. *This is important to remember because it means not only your coming to church this morning will God bless for your good, but if next week you are sick and cannot make it to church, that is also for your good. Included are happy marriages, getting a good job, having a car accident, suffering with cancer, stubbing your toe, etc... etc... etc...*

2. *This is PHARMACY terminology –*

All things work together referred to the mixing of a potent cure! Some things in medicine are poison in the wrong dosage. God knows perfectly well how to mix our pleasures and pains!

3. *A main focus in Romans 8 has been suffering – if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together. (Romans 8:17 NKJ)*

We need instruction and encouragement about suffering, as God will allow it in our lives for His good purposes -

When God wants to drill a man, and thrill a man, and skill a man when God wants to mold a man to play the noblest part; when He yearns with all His heart to create so great and bold a man that all the world shall be amazed, watch His methods, watch His ways!

How He ruthlessly perfects whom He royally elects! How He hammers him and hurts him, And with mighty blows converts him into trial shapes of clay which Only God understands; While his tortured heart is crying And he lifts beseeching hands!

How He bends but never breaks When his good He undertakes; how He uses whom He chooses, And which every purpose fuses him; By every act induces him to try His splendor out- God knows what He's about

II. **What all things works together for good means -**

1. *Good is not what any individual may imagine "good" rather it is THE ULTIMATE GOOD!*

In a previous church I led a Bible study where a man who attended literally believed that it was God's will for all Christians to be healthy and wealthy. In the millennium he said every Christian would be winning the lottery. I will not deny the potential benefit of having a "good" supply of money, but it is not the "good" mentioned here!

In fact, - ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. (1Timothy 6:10 NKJ)

2. *The ULTIMATE GOOD is what God says is good, our conformity to the image of His Son –*

²⁹ **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. (Romans 8:29 NKJ)**

According to God's Word we were created in God's image in three ways:

and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, (Colossians 3:10 NKJ)

and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness. (Ephesians 4:24 NKJ)

We were created in God's image in knowledge, true righteousness and holiness! Colossians 3, speaks of our NEED to be "renewed" in these things, why? Because sin has caused us to lose them! Yes, we still have more knowledge than the animals. We are able to build and use computers, cars and rocketships, etc... Yet we have lost our knowledge of God, and with it of our purpose, what is the chief end of man? What is the meaning of life?

According to God's Word we were created for Him –

¹¹ "You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created." (Rev 4:11 NKJ) Yet, Knowledge (of God) has become IGNORANCE! True Righteousness has given way to SIN! Holiness has fallen to IDOL-ATRY!

In the Old Testament God gave His people Prophets (for knowledge) Priests (for true righteousness) and kings (for holiness ... to lead people away from idolatry) ... Some were better than others, all failed in various degrees.

Now, Christ is our Prophet, Priest and King! The "good" referred to in Romans 8:28-28 is that we would be more like HIM! He would be the First born among, many brethren; God's family!

This outshines winning the lottery –

²⁶ "For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? (Matthew 16:26 NKJ)

III. *What all things works together for good to those who love God means?*

1. *This LIMITS this blessing, there is no promise here for wicked, ungodly people – see Psalm 73 it starts by describing the seeming prosperity of the wicked – but in :18, starts describing their reality -*

... Then I understood their end.¹⁸ Surely You set them in slippery places; You cast them down to destruction.¹⁹ Oh, how they are brought to desolation, as in a moment! They are utterly consumed with terrors.²⁰ As

a dream when one awakes, So, Lord, when You awake, You shall despise their image.²¹ Thus my heart was grieved, And I was vexed in my mind.²² I was so foolish and ignorant; I was like a beast before You.²³ Nevertheless I am continually with You; You hold me by my right hand.²⁴ You will guide me with Your counsel, And afterward receive me to glory.²⁵ Whom have I in heaven but You? And there is none upon earth that I desire besides You.²⁶ My flesh and my heart fail; But God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.²⁷ For indeed, those who are far from You shall perish; You have destroyed all those who desert You for harlotry.²⁸ But it is good for me to draw near to God; I have put my trust in the Lord GOD, That I may declare all Your works. (Psalm 73:1-28 NKJ)

2. *Loving God means really LOVING HIM –*

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!⁵ "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. (Deuteronomy 6:4-5 NKJ)

A. *Loving Him of course includes, seeking Him –*

¹³ And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. (Jeremiah 29:13 NKJ)

B. *Loving Him includes knowing Him –*

"And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. (John 17:3 NKJ)

IV. *If these verses describe us we can surely be THANKFUL for Everything –*

in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. (1 Thessalonians 5:18 NKJ)

1. *Here is that word everything again, it means everything – for Corrie Ten Boom – Lice!*

2. *We are thankful for bad things, not because of their badness, but because their badness is controlled by God for our good –*

Consider Paul's own sanctified desires -

⁸ Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ

⁹ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; ¹⁰ that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, ¹¹ if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. (Phi 3:8-11 NKJ)

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