

Title: All Things for Good

Passage: Romans 8:28-32

Summary:

- I. All things are for your good (v.28)
- II. All things are toward your glory (v.29-30)
- III. All things are by God's grace (v.31-32)

Key Truths For Christians:

- All things are working together for your eternal good. Everything that ever happened in your life is working for my good.
- God predestined us to know Him and to be like Him. God has been writing all of history leading up to our salvation in Christ.
- **It is only by God's free will that we are saved.** Our decision to follow Christ only reflected God's decision to call us. We were otherwise slaves to sin, spiritually dead.

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What point(s) in the sermon did the Lord most impress upon you?
- How does God work in all situations and events in a person's life?
- How may we grow in trust in God as we await the unfolding of His purposes in our lives?
- James 1:22 admonishes us to be "doers of the Word." What next steps will you take in response to the truths you have been exposed to?

Passage:

Romans 8:28-32

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose. 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; and those whom He predestined, He also called; and those whom He called, He also justified; and those whom He justified, He also glorified. What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who indeed did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things?

EXPOSITION

Overview

- I. All things are for your good (v.28)
- II. All things are toward your glory (v.29-30)
- III. All things are by God's grace (v.31-32)

I. ALL THINGS ARE FOR YOUR GOOD (v. 28)

Romans 8:28

“And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose.”

*“And we know
for those who love God*

- Who? Those who love God.

Psalms 73:26

My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

John 14:21

Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.”

- Yes, we love God imperfectly but we sincerely love God.
 - Not perfection but direction of our lives.

all things work together for good

- All things
 - Everything that exists
 - Nothing is working against
- Work together
 - Word = “Synergy”
- For good
 - God is working all things in all creation to your benefit and best
 - If there was a different way to bring about good, it would have occurred.
 - The greatest thing we can do against God is to doubt His love, goodness, and care for us.

Question of reflection

- What is it that you are convinced is not working towards your good?
 - It is that which we idolize more than God.
 - We ought to then put things rightly in their proper place
 - Those in Christ believe and know that all things work together for good.

Good

- Two types of word
 - “Feels good” (what seems good), or
 - “Objectively good” (what is good)
- Here: God is working all things together for our objective good.
- At the end of our lives, we look back and realize:
 - Everything that ever happened is working for my good.
 - How many tears have been shed when we forget?

for those who are called according to His purpose

- His purpose = His thesis
- All of creation (things and unseen) work together for your good.

1 John 4:19

We love because he first loved us.

- God does not love us based on the condition that we would someday, somehow love Him.
- What’s the purpose? See next verse:

II. ALL THINGS ARE FOR YOUR GLORY (v.29-30)

Romans 8:29–30

“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; and those whom He predestined, He also called; and those whom He called, He also justified; and those whom He justified, He also glorified.”

Because those whom He foreknew,

- God knows all things eternity past and eternity future.

1 Corinthians 8:3

But if anyone loves God, he is known by God.

- God has foreknown us. He has loved us.

Contrast:

Matthew 7:21-23

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many

mighty works in your name?’ And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’

- “know” = whether there is an eternal love relationship.

He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son,
1 Peter 1:20-21

He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

- God predestined us for adoption by Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will.
- God predestined us to know Him and to be like Him. God has been writing all of history leading up to our salvation in Christ.

Conformed to the image of His Son

- God is doing a mighty work in you that began in eternity past.

Romans 9:11

though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad—in order that God’s purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of him who calls—

- God calls those He has predestined to be saved.

Ephesians 1:4-5

even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will,

Ephesians 1:11

In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will,

- We are predestined for adoption.

so that He would be the firstborn among many brothers;

- ultimate purpose of our election.
- Romans 3, 5, 6: we are clearly enslaved to sin.

Romans 3:10-12

as it is written: “None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.”

Romans 5:18a

Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men,

- Only in Christ and by His sovereign grace are we free.

Hymn: “And Can It Be” (Charles Wesley)

*Long my imprisoned spirit lay
Fast bound in sin and nature's night;
Thine eye diffused a quick'ning ray,
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
My chains fell off, my heart was free;
I rose, went forth and followed Thee*

- It is only by God’s free will that we are saved.

and those whom He predestined, He also called;

- in time, God called us.
 - Our decision to follow Christ only reflected God’s decision to call us.

John 1:12-13

But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

and those whom He called, He also justified;

- Called = kept by God for Jesus Christ

John 10:27

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.

Matthew 22:14

For many are called, but few are chosen.”

Jude 1:1

Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James,

To those who are called, beloved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ:

1 Peter 2:9

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

- Justified = made right before God

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

- it is our reality today that we are justified before God in Christ having believed in Him.

and those whom He justified, He also glorified

Revelation 17:14

They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful.”

- Our future is secure where we will be glorified (so certain, it is in past tense)

Genesis 50:20

As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.

Acts 2:23-24

this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.

Acts 2:37-39

Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.”

- Analogy: You see before you a gate that says “Come to me”.
 - But once pass through and look back, see on the top of the gate that says, “chosen before the foundation of the world”

III ALL THINGS ARE BY GOD’S GRACE (v. 31-32)

Romans 8:31–32

“What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who indeed did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things?”

What then shall we say to these things?

- In light of the fullness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, what wonder we see!
 - How wonderfully we are loved by God!

Billy Graham was interviewed near the end of his life:

- “What is your greatest regret?”
 - Wished had studied more, prayed more, and spent time with his family.
- “What was your biggest mistake?”
 - Wished would have studied more.
- “What makes you really think as a failure?”
 - Would have studied more. Would have done more good for God on my own soul if studied more.

- God is the king of salvation

Mark 10:23-27

And Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How difficult it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!” And the disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said to them again, “Children, how difficult it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.” And they were exceedingly astonished, and said to him, “Then who can be saved?” Jesus looked at them and said, “With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God.”

If God is for us, who is against us?

- God is for us - always!
 - Then who can be against us? No one!

He who indeed did not spare His own Son,

- He = God the Father
 - His own Son = shows the depth of God’s love.
 - There is nothing else that could be withheld. God spared no expense to spare you. God’s love is so immense beyond our imagination or comprehension.

John 3:16

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

John 15:9

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love.

but delivered Him over for us all,

- By God’s eternal plan and predetermined purpose, God gave Jesus for us.

how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things?”

All things

- Every trial and difficulty is given to bring about good and glory.
- Question of reflection:
 - When something goes wrong in your life, ask this question: How will God not also give us all things along it with Jesus.
- How will God not give the whole lot of inheritance?

1 Peter 1:3-4

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you,

Summary: All things in your life are working together for your good to be conformed into the image of Jesus.

- All things are working together for your eternal good.

Ephesians 3:20-21

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.