

## Title – All Things Work Together

### Prayer

### Purpose/Review

**I'm going to begin this mornings message with a bit of personal history...**

When I was 17... when my older brother and sister were long gone from home...

My mom married a wonderful man who had a greater impact on me than I realized...

**He taught me about public speaking... to train yourself not to say...**

Not to say ah when you're in-between words...

**He taught me how to pay attention to the way a man shakes your hand...**

Is it wimpy or is it firm

**One of the things he loved to do was use types limericks...**

#### **EXAMPLE-**

Hickory Dickory dock,  
the mouse ran up the clock;  
the clock struck one  
and down he run;  
hickory Dickory dock.

**The other thing that drove him crazy was to hear people use phrases**

That are fragments of a longer statement...

#### **EXAMPLE-**

One of those phrases is... "He is happy as a clam"

**How many of you stop and ask... why is a clam happy?**

The complete phrase explains with the clam is happy...

**He is happy as a clam at high tide...**

At high tide the clam is safe... at low tide the clam is vulnerable to attack

**We've heard statements that take parts of the bible out of context to make a point**

That completely distort its original meaning...

**EXAMPLE-**

Money is the root of all evil"

**NOTE-**

This phrase is often used to condemn wealth itself

Whereas the original text identifies that it's the attitude

Towards money that is the problem

**1 Timothy 6**

10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil

**SERMON TITLE – All Things Work Together For Good**

What's wrong with this statement...?

**Reading**

## **Romans 8**

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

### **Doctrinal**

The King James translates this verse differently...

## **Romans 8 KJV**

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.

### **NOTE-**

The King James version lines up with how this verse is commonly repeated

All things work together for good

### **Pastor Ray Pritchard gives us a great observation**

About the different ways that this verse is translated

There is nothing wrong with the translations. We will never properly understand this verse as long as we put God at the end and not at the beginning. But some people look at life that way.

They believe that life is like a roll of the dice—sometimes it's seven-come-eleven and sometimes it's snake eyes. And they believe that after a tragedy God shows up to make everything come out right. But that's not the biblical view at all.

In reality, God is there at the beginning and He is there at the end and He is at every point in between.

## **Here's the bottom line...**

This is one of the most important promises mentioned in the bible...

And one that is most often misunderstood...

### **Romans 8**

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

## **So let's break this promise down...**

Let's decipher the meaning of Romans 8:28

We will find that there are two assurances... and two specific conditions...

## **Four parts of this promise to understand...**

### **Application**

#### **Deciphering Romans 8:28**

##### **1) And we know that God**

## **This statement is the key to understanding this promise...**

First... it is not simply about knowledge

It isn't about knowing what the bible teaches us about God

## **It is all about knowing God...**

We know... because we know God

Wait... how do we know God...?

**OPEN YOUR BIBLES TO John 14:8-9**

**John 14**

8 Philip said to Him, Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us. 9 Jesus said to him, Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?

**In Colossians Paul tells us... *for in Him all the fullness of God was please to dwell***

**NOTE-**

Paul is saying... We know because of what God has done in our lives in the past  
And what He continues to do in our lives in the future

**RECOMMENDATION-**

You have heard me say before to have a notebook or a journal  
When God moves in your life write down the time and date and the event  
And then put the book back on the shelf  
Do this every time that God has revealed Himself to you

Then in a couple of years when you take that book off of the shelf  
As you read it you will see the fingerprints of God in your life

**SIDE NOTE-**

A great witnessing tool

**We know... scholars tell us that this Greek word is in the perfect tense...**

**The Perfect Tense (In Greek)** - describes an action that was completed in the past, but has results or effects that continue into the present

**The idea is being in a state or condition that exists now because of that past action**

## **John 19**

30 Therefore when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.

**It is finished** (perfect tense)

Describes a PAST completed act with PRESENT effect

***We know because of how God has moved in our lives in the past...***

## **EXAMPLE-**

**A devotional in our Daily Bread...**

When the sole survivor of a shipwreck reached a small, uninhabited island, he prayed for God to rescue him, but help didn't come. Eventually he built a hut out of driftwood for protection from the elements. One day he returned from scavenging for food and found his hut in flames, the smoke rising into the sky. Angrily he cried,

"God, how could You do this to me?"

The next morning he was awakened by rescuers.

"How did you know I was here?" he asked.

"We saw your smoke signal," they replied.

***Which brings us to our second assurance...***

## **Deciphering Romans 8:28**

1) And we know that God

**2) Causes all things to work together for good**

**God causes... or... *God is in control... or... God's got this...***

The hand of God is at the helm. He's steering us through the storms of life toward home, toward a safe haven. And He takes care to order all the events of our lives right now to speed us on our way there. This is what we call Providence-- God's overruling hand at work everywhere in a fallen world.... **Raymond Ortlund**

### **EXAMPLE-**

Last line in the Declaration of Independence...

#### **Declaration of Independence**

And for the support of this declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor.

***Our Founding Father's pledged their fortunes and sacred honor on God...***

***Because... The God of the bible... our God... is Sovereign over all things***

Listen to what Paul says about the Sovereignty of God...

#### **Philippians 2**

13 for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.

#### **Romans 8**

28 And we know that God causes **all things to work together for good**

All things is utterly comprehensive, having no qualifications or limits. Neither this verse nor its context allows for restrictions or conditions... **John MacArthur**

**NOTE-**

This is not saying that all things are good  
Sickness and injuries are not good

Paul is talking about the life of Christians on this side of heaven  
This promise is for Christians: for saved believers  
Who have placed their trust in Jesus Christ

**NOTE-**

Sometimes when we are suffering heartbreak or disappointment  
We may wonder what good can come out of it

What God permits to come into our lives  
Is designed to conform us to the image of His Son.

**Good** - means beneficial, profitable or useful.

**NOTE-**

In other words, God will cause everything in our lives  
To become beneficial spiritually profitable, useful and good

**EXAMPLE-**

Think of ordinary table salt. It is composed of two chemicals, sodium and chlorine, which by themselves can be toxic and yet when properly combined they produce a beneficial substance.

**Remember also... that the good... is what is good... from God's perspective.**



*Which now brings us to the first of our 2 specific conditions...*

**Deciphering Romans 8:28**

- 1) And we know that God
- 2) Causes all things to work together for good
- 3) To those who love God**

Greek... agapaō

**Love** - to love unconditionally and to love sacrificially

**NOTE-**

This type of love is not emotional love  
But represents a love that is obedient towards God's will

Again... Love is in the present tense...  
A life that shows love towards God on a daily basis

**NOTE-**

Notice that Paul does not say those who believe in him but those who love him  
The profession of faith can be very different from the possession of faith  
The idea is to both profess and possess a saving relationship with Christ

*Paul builds on possessing a loving relationship with God through Jesus...*

**1 Corinthians 2**

9 but just as it is written, Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, and which have not entered the heart of man, all that God has prepared for those who love Him.

In his first letter John gives us filters to let us know that we do in fact... know God

**OPEN YOUR BIBLES TO 1 John 2:3-6**

John is writing this verse to believers to reassure them  
That their experience with God was genuine

John uses "Know" 40 times in this short letter

**1 John 2**

3 By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. 4 The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; 5 but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: 6 the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.

*Which leads us to the last of our 2 specific conditions...*

**Deciphering Romans 8:28**

- 1) And we know that God
- 2) That God causes all things to work together for good
- 3) To those who love God
- 4) To those who are called according to His purpose**

**NOTE-**

It isn't an external call to the gospel that Paul is talking about  
That happened in the past

Paul is talking about an inward call of the Holy Spirit

**NOTE-**

No one will love God unless the heart has been changed  
And ones heart can only be changed  
Through the work of the Holy Spirit

**When those challenges of life occur always remember who you are...**

**You are a child of the most High God**

**1 Corinthians 1**

9 God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

And since you were called by the most High God  
You possess the gift of Salvation

**2 Thessalonians 2**

13 But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.

Sanctified by the Spirit and faith in truth...

Times will get tough...

At times we may feel overwhelmed or maybe lost...

**But...**

**We know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.**

**You have been chosen by God...**

You possess something the world simply doesn't understand...

You are filled with God's Spirit and have been granted the knowledge of the Truth...

## **INTRO-**

### **John 6**

68 Simon Peter answered Him, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life.

**Yes... life will sometimes be filled with challenges...**

And during those times we will look for answers...

Always remember... that Jesus is the Way... and the Truth... and the Life

### **2 Peter 1**

10 Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you...

Guard your faith...

**CLOSE**