

IN THE HANDS OF GOD

Romans 8:28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

1. The Things We Know

- a. As we prepare for a New Year and take inventory of our current situations and the things that are happening around the world we as many through out the history of the Church take great comfort from this scripture.
- b. For those in the midst of trials, complexities and persecutions this scripture is a Rock that must be stood on.
- c. To the natural eye many things seem to be working against our good, the carnal mind at times says to us that everything is working against us, never the less, FAITH knows it is otherwise.
- d. As we look back at people we have known, and some around us today, how hard it is for those who fail to put their trust in this inspired declaration. What unnecessary fears and doubting are the consequence.

2. All Things

- a. **Ephesians 1:11** In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will,
 - b. All things, what a glorious Being our God is, who is able to take all the things that come against us and work it out so it is in the end to our advantage.
 - c. God looks at each of us, and has a ultimate plan for us.
 - d. What an amazing amount of human self interest must He over come. When we travel down a road that we know we should not be on, he is watching and waiting. , waiting for us to turn back to Him, when we do, He will make the thing that we did and learned on that road to work for our good.
 - e. Think about the amount of demon power that comes against His people, coming against His people because the demons are really opposing our Lord.
 - f. And high above all the things that are happening, we see Our God, in undisturbed calm, the complete master of the situation. From the throne of His exalted majesty, He worketh all things after the counsel of His own will.
 - g. **Isaiah 40:17** Before him all the nations are as nothing; they are regarded by him as worthless and less than nothing.
 - h. The nations that would threaten His people today, both the Jew and the Gentile He regards them as nothing, worthless and less then nothing.
 - i. We lift our voices in wonder and praise unto Him who from direct evil brings forth the greatest good.
3. How true the Words, “ALL THINGS WORK”. Look about you, in nature there is nothing that finds itself in a vacuum, neither is there a creature of God that fails to serve its designed purpose. Nothing is idle. Everything is energized by God so as to fulfill its intended mission. All things labor toward the grand end of their Creator’s pleasure; All things will eventually move to His Royal bidding.
- a. In the letter to the Romans Paul teaches us this truth, **Romans 1:19-20** what may be

known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. ²⁰For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--his eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.

- b. Yes all things work, without work there is no life. When my body stops working as God created it, then we say it is sick.
 - c. When man stops working for the things that God created him for, then we say he is a sinner because he has fallen short of the glory of God. For God created us for a glorious work.
4. Not only do all things work, **THEY WORK TOGETHER**. Things don't just operate, they co-operate; that is why afflictions seldom come alone. Cloud rises upon cloud; storm upon storm. As with Job, one messenger of woe was quickly succeeded by another, burdened with tidings of yet heavier sorrow. Nevertheless, even here faith may trace both the wisdom and love of God. It is the compounding of the ingredients in the recipe that constitutes its benefit. So with God, His dispensations not only "WORK", but they 'work' together so they will grow us into the children that He wants..
- a. **Psalm 18:16** He reached down from on high and took hold of me; he drew me out of deep waters.
 - i. How often over the years has God had to pull me out of a mess that I created?
 - (1) And He did it by changing the circumstances of my life.
 - b. There is a story that Jesus tells, that we wrongly call the prodigal or lost son, what it should be called and seen as, the **LOVING FATHER OR THE LOVING PARENT**..
 - i. The story starts out by introducing the Man, a man with two sons.
 - (1) The younger son asks the Father TO give Him what will be do him at the death of the Father. The Father does it.
 - (2) It is not long after the son receives his wealth that he leaves his fathers house.
 - (3) Now, I want you to see the Father or the parent before we go on with the story.
 - (a) The Father sets at the door looking for His son.
 - (b) When He sees His son, He runs to him, throws His arms around His neck, and kisses him.
 - (c) He Instructs His servants to Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate.
 - (4) Now let us see the son.
 - (a) ¹³"Not long after receiving his inheritance, the son got together all he had. The way this is written, he took all he owned, he was not coming back.
 - (b) He sets off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. Wealth here means more than money, all that was him.
 - (c) Because of problems in the land, and with his wealth gone, he finds that he is in great need, but no one in this new country will help him. ¹⁷"
 - (d) He lowers himself to perform acts that no son of His Father should ever perform, so When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death!
 - (e) ¹⁸I will set out and go back to my father

- (f) ²⁰So he got up and went to his father.
 - (5) What was the result of all this" the son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' "
 - (a) We might say that all the thing were working against the son, maybe, but if we look at it with the spiritual eye we see something different.
 - (b) All things were at work to bring the mans son back to him, for this was good for both of them.
5. **ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD**, These words are used to teach us, every believer must believe that no matter what may be the number nor how overwhelming the circumstances, they are all contributing to bringing us into the possession of the inheritance provided for us in heaven. We must see how wonderful the hand of God is in over-ruling things that are meant for our harm, and turning them to our Good.
- a. As we enter a New Year, and are only ten days into a new season we marvel at the power which holds the heavenly bodies in their orbits, we wonder at the continually recurring seasons and the renewal of the earth; but this is not nearly so marvelous as His bringing good out of evil in all the complicated occurrences of human life, and making the power and malice of Satan, with its destructive works, to minister to the good of His children.
 - b. So let us see the three reasons given here for this to be the case
 - i. Because all things are under the absolute control of Jehovah-Jireh, The God that takes care of His people.
 - ii. God desires our good, and nothing but our good.
 - iii. Satan himself cannot touch a hair of our heads with out God's permission. And then only if it will work out for our further good.
 - c. Not all things are good in themselves, nor the way they lead us; but God makes all things work for our Good. Nothing enters our life by blind chance; nor are they mere accidents. Everything is being moved by God, with this end in view, OUR GOOD.
 - d. Everything is under the rule of God, to bring everything to God's eternal purpose, therefore it brings blessings to us by bringing us to the conformity of the image of Jesus Christ. All suffering, sorrow, loss, are used by our Father to minister to the benefit of His elect.
6. Keep in mind who all this is for, **TO THEM THAT LOVE GOD**
- i. Here is the thing that marks all true Christians. The love they have for their God. Those that hate God are lost.
 - ii. Our Creeds may differ in minor details
 - iii. The way we worship the Lord may differ in outward form
 - iv. **Some would ask, what do Christians have in common, we believe in Christ and we love God.**
 - (1) We love Him for the gift of His Savior;
 - (2) We love Him as the Father in whom we may confide.
 - (3) We love Him for His personal excellence; Holiness, wisdom, faith fullness.
 - (4) We love Him for the ROD of discipline, knowing that He doth all things well
 - (5) And above all, we love God because He first loved us.
 - v. But at times, I ask myself, How little I love God. I seem to love myself more than I love my God.

- (1) But it is these thoughts that makes me aware that I do want to Love God with all my heart, and this shouts the message to my soul. You are not indifferent in your love of God, you are just aware that you should love Him more.
- vi. Let us go back and look at the story Jesus used to teach us these truths.
 - (1) At first the son saw his Father as just someone who had a great deal of wealth.
 - (2) He wanted part of that wealth, he was only interested in what his Father could give him.
 - (3) After he spends all his money, he takes another look at his Father
 - (4) He sees that His father treats his hired men better than he is being treated.
 - (5) After realizing the love of the Father for all those who are on the farm, he decides he just wants to live on His fathers farm, no matter what his position.
 - (6) Now he understands that he had a wrong relationship with his father,
 - (a) Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.
 - (b) I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'
 - (i) He had performed acts that no son of his Father should ever do
 - (7) And now we see the Love of the son for the Father, I am not worthy to be called your son.
 - (a) But he is not his Fathers son because he chose to be or the things he has or has not done, he is his Fathers son because of the acts of the Father.
7. **“Who are called”**
 - a. **Romans 1:6-7** And you also are among those who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.

⁷To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints:
 - b. As I have shared with you in the past, looking at Jesus as He walked the shores of Galilee, when He came to those He wanted to follow Him, He said, “Come” they dropped everything and followed.
 - c. This is the call that this passage is speaking of.
 - i. Some would start to question their call to be SAINTS of God.
 - (1) They might say, Yes I can remember the minister or teacher that I was saved under.
 - (2) Another might say it was reading the Bible that saved me..
 - (3) But they start to question whether or not the Holy Spirit called them with an inward irresistible call.
 - (4) A call to come out of the World and into the presence of God and His Kingdom
 - d. The one sure way to know if this scripture fits, all who have been called, love God,
 - i. We now want to be in His presence, instead of fleeing from Him in terror
 - ii. We now seek Him; instead of caring little whether our conduct brings honor or dishonor to Him.
 - iii. Our deepest desire now is to please and glorify Him.
8. **According to His purpose**
 - a. **2 Timothy 1:9** He has saved us and called us to a holy life--not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time,
 - i. Our hearts cry out, “Not my will, but Your will be done”, because we have learned that His will is best for us.

- ii. That before the beginning of time He had a plan for each of us
 - iii. We are new creations in Christ, just as we saw before, every thing in nature, every thing created by God has a purpose.
 - iv. The only difference in us and the rest of nature, nature does the will of God. God is waiting for us to talk with Him about our purpose in His plan
 - v. Then when we finally understand, and say, Not my will, but your will be done, no matter the things that come against us, He is going to carry out that plan in the end.
9. When doubt comes, we have a battle to fight.
- a. We can win all the battles if we will just remember.
 - i. He is fighting for us.
 - ii. He chose us.
 - iii. We keep our mind on the things of God.
 - (1) **1 Cor. 15:2** By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you.
 - (2) **2 Peter 3:1** Dear friends, this is now my second letter to you. I have written both of them as reminders to stimulate you to wholesome thinking.
 - iv. Jesus said “DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME” REMEMBER WHAT?
 - (1) The Love and the gift of the Father
 - (2) The love and sacrifice of the Son.
10. We know that all things work together for our good
- a. This is more than believing something might happen
 - b. It is more than a fervent desire
 - c. It is more than hope
 - d. It is the assurance that ALL THINGS DO WORK
 - i. **Isaiah 26:3** You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you.
11. No teaching in the entire Bible is more clear than this truth that we have looked at today.
- a. Joseph being sold into slavery, all the things that happened to him. God was not only allowing these things for the good of Joseph, that is making him the ruler of the known world. But it was also a means to take a mere family and turn them into a mighty nation.
 - b. David, his family had little regard for him. That was O.K., God was using the circumstances of his life to turn him into the King of Israel.
 - c. Samson, through all his trials and mistakes, God was preparing him to bring a devastating judgment upon the enemies of His people.
 - d. Ester saved her people
 - e. Moses delivered God’s people
 - f. And on and on it goes.
12. We also know this, the circumstances which would dim our eyes of faith are about to be changed.
- a. We will see the tribulation that we are in come to and end..
 - b. As we enter the KINGDOM OF GOD, we will no longer see through a glass darkly, but in His Divine presence, we will see that “ALL THINGS” did “WORK TOGETHER” for our personal and eternal good.

MAY THIS COMING YEAR BE A YEAR THAT WE PROUDLY SAY, GOD LET THEM

WILL BE DONE.
AMEN