

## All Things for Good?

This month's topic concerns Romans 8:28, where it says "*God works all things together for good to those who love Him.*" People would say there is a lot going on in my life right now that doesn't seem to be that good. This is one of those verses in Scripture that seem too good to be true. It is one of those passages that people like to quote to feel better about the occurrences in their lives. But to be honest, it sometimes just confuses us. When we look at our lives we discover that things don't always work out in such a way that we can identify how God could possibly be making everything in our lives work out for good. As a matter of fact, it appears that there are times in my life, and I'm sure in yours and others, things are just plain awful, and we don't see any good coming from it. This verse is certainly true but it doesn't necessarily mean I'll be able to explain everything in my life. There may be things that happened in my life that are quite evil. When we do things that are against God's will, there will be consequences. Those consequences can affect not just us, but everyone in our lives. And the consequences of other people's sins also affect us as well. We live in a world suffering because of sin. That means that evil is real and it really does affect all of us.



The verse says that God works all things for good. And that's exactly what it means. God works all of this stuff for our good. It doesn't mean that everything is good, or that we will always understand or see the good that God is working here and now. What it does promise to us is that God is not conquered by evil, but that God is in control of all things. He wins and with Him, we do too.

When I say God is in control of all things, I mean evil things too. God is almighty. There is nothing that is stronger than He, including sin, death, and the devil. But for now His permissive will allows bad things to happen for a time. Yet, even now God is stronger. Even when it doesn't look like He is stronger than the evil in our lives, God promises us that He is, and He encourages us to put our faith in Him.

God works all things together for good. As always, when we talk about God doing good things, we need to talk about Jesus. God's love for us is His Son Jesus Christ. He took on flesh. He lived a perfect life, died, and rose in order to give to us good things. You see, it is in Jesus' death on the cross that God defeated evil and through His resurrection that sin and death are defeated once for all. So, that's where we need to look when we're really answering these questions. We know that God works all things for good for us in Jesus.

Will everything, then, in my life go well because of Jesus? That would be nice, wouldn't it? But no, that is not what this verse says. The truth is that even Christians will suffer in this life at times. However, even in the midst of suffering, we know God is not against us, but is for us, He's with us, and we know that God always will work through everything, even evil and bad things, to bless us and draw us to Himself. It's hard to feel that sometimes, in fact it's impossible. But that is where faith comes in and the clear Word of God draws us to that kind of faith. We trust and believe that God is with us working all things for us because of what God has done for us in Jesus Christ. So, even when it doesn't make sense to us, we can trust that the promises of God are already fulfilled for us, in Jesus, and will ultimately and eternally be experienced by us as well. Because of Him, we know that God is always on our side.

That's the View from Here.

Pastor Bill Winter