

Confirmation

Romans 8:28-30

Doubt destroys

- Trust relationships take time
- Christians experience doubt (sown by the Devil)
- It causes uncertainty, questioning our faith
- Perspective: God has our best interest at heart

Suffering and God's goodness

- We suffer, groan because of the Fall
- We need to hear that God is good
 - He selected us to be examples of His glory & grace
- Suffering cannot destroy our salvation
- This is clear from Rom 8:28-30 (God's goodness, our salvation)

Romans 8:28-30 (ESV)

28 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good (NIV - *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him*), for those who are called according to his purpose. 29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. 30 And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

Despite our suffering and groaning, we should have no doubt about God's goodness

Proof of God's good intentions

The Blessing: Ultimate good

- Verse 28a
- “We know”: Absolute certainty, confirmation
- “All things work together for good”: Ultimate good
- “Those who love God”: Condition/basis (relationship with God)
- *Suffering now is hard now, but we know the future*

The Reason: God's salvation plan

- The big picture: Salvation by grace (vv28b-30)
- Called according to God's purpose
- Summary of the "process" ("path") of salvation
 - **Foreknew:** God's knowledge has no limit (1 Pet 1:2)
 - **Predestined:** "To determine beforehand" (Eph 1:5&11)
 - **Called:** Placing a calling upon our lives
 - **Justified:** To declare just (innocent)
 - **Glorified:** Partake in the glory of God (present and future)
- *Salvation from eternity (foreknew) to eternity (glory) – Phil 1:6*

The Goal: Jesus' image

- Salvation is about bringing glory to God
- Called for purpose (v28b): Salvation has purpose
- To “be conformed to the image of his Son” (v29)
- Jesus is the “firstborn among his brothers” (v29b) = Supreme Lord
- *We are to display the image of Jesus*

All things good

- In the midst of suffering:
 - We have the Spirit praying, groaning and interceding for us
 - And ... we know that God only has good in mind for us
- Confirmation:
 - Salvation: Saved by God, by grace and not works
 - Good: “All things” work together for our good
 - Goal: Motivated to be like Jesus

Implications and Application

- Some realities/questions...
- “Good” is not always immediate – we live by faith and hope
- Some things are caused by evil, which is not good
- God can bring some good out of bad things
- Ultimate good is not in this life, but in eternity

Response

- **Salvation & love for God**
- **Understanding and faith**
- **Hope in our future**
- **Enduring suffering**
- **Reflecting Jesus' image**