

GOD'S PURPOSE (Romans 8:28-31)

I. All things work for good.

- A. It is very important that each verse of the Bible was not written in a vacuum.
 - 1. In other words, each verse is part of an overall context.
 - 2. Sometimes, we are bad to take a verse completely out of its context and ask it to stand completely alone when the Holy Spirit never intended for that to happen.
- B. This verse is one of those verses that people pull completely out of its context.
 - 1. How many times have we heard about someone suffering and someone pulls out this verse to tell them some kind of good will come out of it?
 - 2. Or, if someone has died, and a family member who had been in sin is converted or restored, there are those who pull this verse out to teach that was the good thing that came out of that death.
- C. Everything in life does not always work out for good.
 - 1. All does not mean all circumstances in every situation work for good.
 - 2. Sometimes all is not universal, but limited to the scope of the context of the verse.
 - 3. This is the case with this verse.
- D. All in this verse, refers to all the things Paul had discussed that we mentioned in the introduction.
 - 1. Being saved by hope, having help in heaven, being joint heirs with Christ and so on.
 - 2. When we suffer, because of our love for God, it works towards our salvation, which is God's purpose.
- E. The good that comes out is our salvation when we truly love God.
- F. Paul sets the limit for who gets the good out of it with the phrases, those who love God and those who are called according to His purpose.
 - 1. God calls through the gospel (2 Thessalonians 2:14).
 - 2. Paul wrote about it to Timothy (2 Timothy 1:9).
- G. God's purpose is for mankind to be saved and those who answer His call to save have their sufferings work for their good, or eternal salvation.

II. God foreknew a group of people.

- A. Sadly, these next two verses have also been plucked out of their context to be made to say something that contradicts other clear passages of scripture.
- B. There are those that teach God decided each individuals eternal destiny before time began and that we have no decision in the matter.
 - 1. Romans 2:11 says God is not a respecter of persons.
 - 2. Jesus invited all men to come to Him (Matthew 11:28-30).
 - 3. Peter told Cornelius that God is not a respecter of persons (Acts

10:34-35).

4. Numerous other passages teach that you and I have a choice in the matter.
- C. God did foreknow who He was going to save in that His plan involved inviting all men to come to Him through His Son.
1. Any that came to Him through faith in Christ would and will be saved.
 2. The group that was predestinated was the group willing to be conformed to the image of Christ.
- D. This group that came to God through Christ was able to do so because Christ was raised from the dead making Him the firstborn of many of us who become His adopted brothers and sisters.
- E. The group of people predestinated to be saved is the group of people who answer the gospel call.
- F. Those who answer the gospel call are justified by the blood of Christ as Paul mentioned in Romans 5.
- G. Those who are justified are glorified by God.
1. This is looking forward to heaven.
 2. Paul mentioned it in verses 17-18.
 3. This glorification is ours in promise and in hope.