

NORTHEAST HOUSTON COMMUNITY CHURCH
Sermon: All Things for our Good and Predestination, Part 1
Topic: All Things Work for our Good
Scripture Text: Romans 8:28–30
6/2/2019

Romans 8:28–30 (NKJV) 28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. 29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

The above passage is considered by some to be one of the most misunderstood passages in the Bible.

“This passage is surely one of the most precious to the child of God, fondly embraced in times of trial. And yet, it appears to be seriously misunderstood by many.”

Perhaps you have heard, like me, this particular verse quoted to someone going through some tragedy or difficulty. In trying to comfort them, many well-meaning Christian people would quote [Romans 8:28](#). But does this verse apply to every situation and to everyone?

In this series we will attempt to **exegesis** this passage in an attempt to get a good understand and removing any confusion surrounding it.

ex·e·ge·sis - critical explanation or interpretation of a text, especially of scripture.

Synonyms - [clarification](#), [construction](#), [elucidation](#), [explanation](#), [explication](#), [exposition](#),

I intend to ask some basic questions along the way and also provide biblical answers to them. Some include the following:

1. Does v28 apply to all things, including evil and to all people?
2. Has God already determined the destiny of everyone through predestination?
3. If so, then are there some people that have no chance to be saved and are predestined to go to Heaven or hell?
4. If, so then how does freewill and free choice figure in?
5. What about the doctrine of Election? Does God elect (choose) some over others for eternal life or hell?

I know I have my work cut out for me but I am excited about it. I always find that the Holy Spirit reveals new truths to me during the series.

One article in my research says, “God predestines who will be saved, and we must choose Christ in order to be saved. Both facts are equally true.”

I find that statement a little confusing. And I do not believe that God is the author of confusion.

1 Corinthians 14:33 (NKJV) 33 For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.

God does Predestine and we must choose Christ in order to be saved, but everyone He predestines, it may not be to salvation. I hope to address this thought later.

Taking the passage *Romans 8:28–30*, here is a sample of the difference of opinion regarding predestination between two Christian religious denominations.

Arminians, with their desire to maintain human free will, often say that God, in eternity past, looked down through time to see who would choose Him out of their own free will, and then it is these whom God predestined for eternal life. In this order of events, God’s foreknowledge logically precedes God’s predestination.

Calvinists disagree, and say that such an order of events makes God dependent upon human choice. They argue instead that God knows what will happen in the future because He predestined, or foreordained, all that will happen (Demarest, [The Cross and Salvation](#), 36-44; Piper, [5 Points](#), 59-60).

https://redeeminggod.com/calvinistic-or-do-salutis-romans-8_28-30/

You may notice that the text varies slightly in some of the newer translations.

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

Romans 8:28 (NIV84) 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.

Romans 8:28 (NLT) 28 And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.

Romans 8:28 (ESV) 28 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

Romans 8:28 (ASV 1901) 28 And we know that to them that love God all things work together for good, even to them that are called according to his purpose.

The difference in the renditions lies in the fact that some of the ancient Greek manuscripts vary. The differences are of no practical significance. Knowing this requires us to look more deeply at the words and their usage.

8:28 The best manuscript evidence records this verse as, “we know **that God causes** all things¹ (JM)

Let’s begin by trying to exegesis this passage. First question we should ask is:

1. Who is the writer or speaker? We know that the writer is Paul written about 56 A.D.
 - a. *Romans 1:1 (NKJV) I Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God*
2. To whom is he speaking or writing? – To the Church in Rome

¹ MacArthur, J., Jr. (Ed.). (1997). [The MacArthur Study Bible](#) (electronic ed., p. 1708). Nashville, TN: Word Pub.

a. *Romans 1:7 (NKJV) 7 To all who are in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

Paul is writing to the church in Rome, to the beloved of God. This group is separate from those not “beloved” of God. The beloved of God are the saints (holy set apart for God).

3. Does v28 apply to all things, including evil and to all people? I think I prefer the NLT version.

*Romans 8:28 (NLT) ²⁸ And we know **that God causes everything** to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.*

To answer this question, let’s break this verse down.

And we know

This is important because it tells us to whom Paul is speaking. The “we” are Christians within the church. Paul says it in a way and tone that comes across as a reminder. The “we” does not include the non-Christian. The non-Christian does not know that and we who are Christians have to be reminded.

How does a Christian know this? We know by experience. If we were to look back over our lives, we will see the grace and mercy of God bringing us through and growing our faith.

“that God causes everything to work together for the good.”

The main difference in this paraphrased translation is the word “causes”. It tells me that everything that happens to a Christian is something good. But, that even the bad or evil things God can cause them to work for our good.

“In God’s hands, intended evil becomes eventual good.” Max Lucado, noted author.

The good does not happen automatically just because we are Christian, God is the cause of the good.

The clearest example of this is the story of Joseph, which we covered a few weeks ago. His brother’s actions were meant for evil but God turned it to good.

Genesis 50:20 (NKJV) 20 But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.

There are other examples that may not be spelled out so clearly. For example. The persecution of the early Christians was designed to wipe out Christianity but God used it to move the people out of one area and spread out taking the Gospel with them.

I don’t have to tell you about the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus.

Over the years one of my favorite sayings is “whatever happens to God’s children is for their good and or for the glory of God.”

to those who love God.

There is a further separation as to whom this applies to and that is to those that love God.

Deuteronomy 6:5 (NKJV) 5 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

This is the greatest commandment.

Matthew 22:40 (NKJV) 40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

Now if someone does not practice this commandment then they have no right to claim the associated blessing.

I think I can safely say that a man or woman that practices this commandment is a good person and the scriptures tells us that the steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord.

*Psalm 37:23–24 (NKJV) 23 The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, And He delights in his way. 24 Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; **For the Lord upholds him with His hand.***

Though he may fall the Lord will uphold him with His hand.

*Proverbs 3:6 (NKJV) 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, **And He shall direct your paths.** (Psalm 1:2)*

For a Christian or anyone to arbitrarily attach this passage to everyone, is misleading them if they have no relationship with the Lord. It is difficult for a non-Christian to see the good in the situation. It is possible that they will become more cynical.

Even Jesus requires our love which is proved by our obedience to His commandments.

John 14:15 (NKJV) 15 “If you love Me, keep My commandments.

This is why every Christian is encouraged to give thanks in all thing for what is happening to us is of the will of God for our good.

*1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NKJV) 18 in everything give thanks; **for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.***

This does not apply to the non-believer.

We understand that most of the early Christians were Jews. The Jews were familiar with the OT scriptures, specifically the Psalms. I believe the 23 Psalm of David was an encouragement to them as well as a confirmation that God is concern about our welfare.

This is the first message in the series. So far, we can understand that for those that love the Lord, all things will work together for our good and or for God’s glory.

Message Scriptures: Romans 8:28–30, 1 Corinthians 14:33, Romans 8:28 (NKJV,NIV,NLT,ESV,ASV), Romans 1:1, Romans 1:7, Genesis 50:20 , Deuteronomy 6:5, Matthew 22:40, Psalm 37:23–24, Proverbs 3:6, Psalm 1:2, John 14:15, Psalm 23:1, Philippians 4:19, Psalm 23:4, Psalm 23:6

END

Believing in Romans 8:28 will lead to the fact that I do not give in to the temptation to:

1. Get angry.
2. Get offended.
3. Feel insulted.
4. Lose my self-control.
5. Become jealous or envious.
6. Lose courage.
7. Become bitter.
8. Bear a grudge against anyone.
9. Complain about anything.
10. Become dissatisfied.
11. Avenge myself.
12. Take what belongs to others.
13. Do anything that is false or deceptive.
14. Become restless when something is going on.
15. Revile in return when I am being reviled.
16. Dislike anybody at all.
17. Get upset.
18. Feel it is hard to bear when I have to suffer reproach.
19. Think that anything is annoying.
20. Think that anyone or anything is standing in my way.
21. Feel that I am ever unfortunate.
22. Feel that I am ever disappointed.
23. Feel that I have been deceived.
24. Desire better [earthly](#) things.
25. Feel aggrieved that I have received the spouse that I have or that I have no spouse.

All misery is disposed of by simply believing this one scripture! No wonder Paul writes that the gospel is a power unto salvation for everyone who believes.

<https://activechristianity.org/romans-828-incredible-reality-well-known-verse>