

“All Things Work Together for Good”

A Study of the Book of Romans

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Key Truth: 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 ESV)

Throughout the book of Romans in chapters one through eight, Paul has touched on many things: salvation, sin, faith, justification, God’s righteousness, Christ’s sacrifice, and the Spirit’s intercession. But the one thing that’s been carrying his argument along and has tied all those elements together is the saving and sanctifying grace of God. So, even though Paul doesn’t explicitly mention grace in these verses, we know by context and by theology that the grace of God is present here and at work in the things Paul talks about in verse 28. Two questions arise from the study of these verses: who are the recipients of this grace, and what are its effects?

DISCUSS

Read **Romans 8:27-30** and discuss with the group a statement or concept that stood out to you or impacted you in the sermon entitled “All Things Work Together for Good.”

DIG IN

1. The Recipients of God’s Grace (Romans 8:28a, c)

What specific words does Paul use to describe those for whom “all things work together for good?” Which words stand out to you and why?

To whom does Paul refer when he says, “saints” (v. 27)? Why (see 1 Corinthians 1:2)?

Why do you think it’s important that the recipients of this grace love God (see v. 28a)?

Why is it important that we not make Romans 8:28 solely about ourselves individually?

2. The Effects of God’s Grace (Romans 8:28b)

How do we know God is the One causing all things to work together for good (see Ephesians 1:11)? How might that affect our interpretation of this verse?

When Paul says, “all things work” what kinds of things does he refer to? Does this mean only “all *good* things”? Why or why not?

In what ways do all things work together for the good of our sanctification (see v. 29)? Individually? Corporately?

How would you answer a person who says that Romans 8:28 promotes a “prosperity gospel” or “faith-healing message”?

DO

What lessons do you learn from these verses that you will take with you throughout the coming week?