

ALL THE WAY THE SAVIOR LEADS ME!

INTRO: We have been called to be **patient** in trouble, to **pray** in affliction, and this evening we are assured of **triumph** through trials! In this chapter the Apostle lays out arguments to provide us with a full assurance, an absolute certainty of our ultimate, final, and complete salvation and deliverance. Rom. 8:28 is one of the most remarkable statements that the Apostle ever made. It is also one of the most comforting statements in the whole of Scripture. What a blessed confession! Bold it is, but most blessed: a certainty, a blessed assurance.

I. THE CONTENT OF THIS ASSURANCE.A. "All things work *for good*."

1. What is good? Do we mean earthly success, prosperity, our earthly comfort and ease? NO!
2. When we speak of good, we speak of God who alone is good.
3. All things work for the glory of God, the glory of his people, the glory that will be revealed in them.
4. All things work for the final glory when we become the heirs of all things.
5. All things are beneficial for us, work for our well-being. They lead to a good end

B. "*All things* work for good."

1. This is all-comprehensive: all things God made in this created world and all things in heaven above.
2. All things that occur in history and in our lives, good and bad. There are no accidents.
3. But especially the Apostle wishes to emphasize the things that appear evil to us.
4. It is not so much a question whether good things work for our good, but do evil things?
5. Notice the context: "the sufferings of this present time" (vs.18).
6. Think of the evil things that happened to Joseph, to Daniel, to Jesus in the flesh.
7. Evil men intended these things to do harm and bring destruction.
8. God leads his people in dark ways that his people may look, depend, and trust more in him.

C. These things *work together* for good.

1. All things in creation work. They produce something. It leads to an end.
2. Not only things, but all events, and all the actions of people more forward to an end. They accomplish something.
3. All things work together. Not at cross purposes, but they work one work. They have the same object in view.
4. They do not know it, often they do not want this. Never does the devil desire to work for the good of God's people
5. Not in and of themselves, but these things work together because God works through them for his purpose.
6. God brings to pass not only the good, but also the bad and the ugly.

D. The triumph:

1. We read in vs. 37, "we are more than conquerors." Do you have this confidence, this certainty, this assurance?
2. God works all things, leading us through this pilgrimage to safely bring us prepared for the glory he has for us.

II. THE BASIS OF THIS ASSURANCE.

A. God's counsel.

1. The phrase "to them who are called according to his purpose" point to the basis of the truth above.
2. God's counsel is God's eternal purpose and plan that God himself works out and realizes in all of history.
3. This counsel is all-comprehensive: God has included all things in his counsel, nothing is excluded.
4. Nothing happens by chance or accident.

B. God's calling of his people.

1. According to God's counsel we are called. He determined that he would have a people like unto his Son, Christ.
2. God determined to glorify himself in his Son. To do this he gave his Son many brethren. All serves this purpose.
3. So at bottom, the ground of this wonderful assurance is the precious doctrine of election.
4. God's calling is effectual. By the Spirit he draws his elect people irresistibly to himself.
5. Our enemies try hard to lead us astray and away from God, but they absolutely cannot (vs. 29,30).

C. We are in Christ Jesus.

1. God gave us to Jesus Christ to be saved before eternity. For this purpose, God sent his Son into the world (vs. 3).
2. Jesus Christ has suffered for all of our sins, and delivered us from the power of it.
3. It is this glorious liberty that enables us to run the race, fight the good fight as God's children.
4. Not in ourselves but Christ Jesus living in us; our being united with Christ.

D. We are given the Spirit as an earnest.

1. "To be spiritually minded is life and peace" (vs.6).
2. So in the midst of these good, bad and ugly things in life, we do not grumble or despair, but we look up.
3. The Spirit beareth witness with our spirit that we are children of God, heirs, if we suffer with him, will be glorified also.

III. THE PARTICIPANTS OF THIS ASSURANCE.

A. This comfort of our text is for "them who love God, to them who are called.

1. Not for the wicked: the good, bad and ugly all work together by God for their destruction!
2. The connection between called and loving God. God's call is efficacious whereby we are changed. We love God!
3. Our love for God is the fruit, the inevitable fruit of being called. Do we love God?
4. This is not a mere sentiment, but a matter of heart and will. We keep his commandments, love his Word & people.
5. This love reveals itself in our antithetical life, hating sin, fleeing from it.

B. This is very personal.

1. "We know..." How do we know this?
2. We know not only that All things work for good to those who love God, but that means by grace, ME!