

All Things Work Together for Good

Wednesday, February 06, 2019

Mike Miller

Straight Paths Bible Church

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. **Rom. 8:28**

- I. This statement is connected to what we just read about prayer.
 - A. It is another help to explain to us about why our prayers are not always answered in the way we want them to be.
 - B. It is another reminder that God is in control and the things that happen to us are not without his knowledge.
 - C. It is a help to our souls to know there is a reason why we don't always get our way in things and our life is often taken in a direction that we would never have chosen for ourselves.

- II. All things ...
 - A. This includes all things ...good and bad.
 - B. This includes all things ...that we do ourselves, or that others do to us.
 - C. This includes all things ...choices we make for ourselves or choices that are made for us by others.

- III. Work together ...
 - A. It is the sum of all things that produce the good God has in mind.
 - B. We cannot isolate any individual thing that happens to us and necessarily find any good in it by itself.
 - C. Sort of like a recipe for biscuits: flour, salt, baking soda, lard, etc.
 1. Any of these by themselves, or even a combination of some of them would not make a biscuit, but ALL of them WILL.
 - D. We must not focus on individual trials and troubles and try to define our life by any of them.
 - E. The true measure of our life can only be made when it is over.

- IV. For good ...
 - A. God never fails at what He does.
 - B. What God has in mind for us is beyond anything we would ever hope for or dream of.
 - C. When ALL things are finished with what God has done in our life we will say "it is very good" just like God did when he finished his first creation.
 - D. We cannot claim any promise that "today" will be what we consider to be "good" but we absolutely know that all things working together will end up with what is good.

- V. To them that love God ...
 - A. This is the qualification for this wonderful promise – you must be a child of God.
 - B. If you love God then you KNOW that ALL things are working together for YOUR GOOD.

- C. If you are not a child of God and you do not love Him, then you can be assured that all things are not working together for your good.
 - D. For the lost all things work together for their destruction and misery.
 - E. On them they are sent as chastisements; and they produce complaining, instead of peace; rebellion, instead of submission; and anger, impatience, and hatred, instead of calmness, patience, and love.
 - F. The Christian is made a better man by receiving afflictions as they should be received, and by desiring that they should accomplish the purpose for which they are sent.
 - G. The sinner is made more hardened by resisting them, and refusing to submit to their obvious intention and design.
- VI. To them who are the called according to his purpose.
- A. Of course, this includes all who are saved.
 - 1. God has a purpose and a plan for all of our lives.
 - 2. He will use us according to his wisdom in whatever capacity or circumstances he deems best for his purpose and for our benefit.
 - 3. He will use us to the measure that we are yielded to Him in our hearts.
 - B. But it also specifically refers here to those who give their lives completely to the service of God.
 - 1. There are those who are chosen vessels; Paul was one of those. (Acts 9:15)

As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. **Acts 13:2**

Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations. **Jer. 1:5**

- 2. These people are subjected to special trials and suffering in order to make them into what God has in mind.
- 3. Therefore, they especially need promises like this one.
- 4. The greater the trials of life the greater the need for us to live in the realm of faith, living in the light of the whole picture of time and eternity and not simply in the present circumstances.
- 5. And for the child of God, the greater the trials in this life, the greater the reward in eternity, because great trials make for greater usefulness, and therefore greater fruit bearing.