

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Road Map
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Romans 8:28-30
August 9, 2020

Knowing that everything is working together for your good is life-changing!

They say that everything works out for the best in the end. Really? Who says that? Isn't that in the Bible, or something? - This common saying seems to have sprung from misquoting Romans 8:28. It says more than Paul or the Holy Spirit promised.

- It implies God works **everything** out for the best **for everyone** in the **end**.
- The reality of hell makes it clear that is **not true**. Hell is not good - not the best.
- This *saying* is **wishful thinking - false hope - a lie**. Please **don't** repeat it!

Sometimes I get the impression when a Christian brings up this passage, they don't sound all that convinced that **everything** is working for **their** good. They quote it trying to convince themselves, hoping that it is true. **Imagine** how liberating, yes even life-changing it would be to be totally convinced it is true. - That's my goal today.

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- ❖ It's true for: **those who love God - those who are called according to his purpose**
 - **those who love God**
 - ◆ Not loving any god, the god of your choice! The One True God who made you.
 - ◆ All are born sinners - **hostile** to the Living God. What happened?
 - Called by God to faith/new self - followers of Jesus love God.
 - *God is love*. He called us to be his children. *We love because he first loved us*.
 - **those who love God - new character**, not a criteria!
 - ◆ This leaves no room for wondering *if I love God enough!* You **love** or don't.
 - ◆ Spirit adopted, heirs with Christ, children calling *Abba, Father*. Rom. 8:15-17
 - **Love** shows in our devotion to Abba - treat as Lord, **love** to listen to him
 - **Love** isn't just an action or emotion. **It's our life**. Who we are. How we live.
 - **Love** for God moves us to want others to know him and his **love**
 - God loves everyone. Jesus died for everyone. Not everyone lets God love them.
 - ◆ Those who delight in God's love - live under the **protective dome of his love**
 - ◆ Those who **love** God want him to work his wonders in them and in their life.
- ❖ **Your good defined: to be conformed to the image of his Son**
 - Let's be honest. What do we think is *good*? *What I like*. *What I want*.
 - ◆ Sin's impact on our thinking, likes, and wants - we call bad *good* and good *bad*
 - ◆ *The road to hell is paved with good intentions* and seeking pleasant ways.
 - ◆ Our sinful flesh avoids pain, discomfort, and embarrassment - at all costs.
 - **God knows good**. God wants everything to work for our **good**. He defines **good**.
 - ◆ The **good** God seeks is the **good** of his 6 days of Creation.
 - ◆ **Good** is undoing the Fall, for us **to be conformed to the image of his Son**
 - ◆ To liberate us from every cell of our sinful nature - making us all new!
 - ◆ Remove every notion of darkness, perversion, and love of sin.

- ◆ This is the *joyful life of repentance*: turning from sin to Christ - made new
- ◆ Sanctification: making us holy = liberating from the bad (sin). That's good!
 - ...*those he justified, he also glorified*. *Glorified*, stated as if completed.
 - This is the **good** God began working in you at your baptism. Rising new!
 - This is **glory** in us that will be revealed at the resurrection. Rom. 8:18
 - When our new light shines - glimpses of this glory are evident.
- God sees to it that **everything** in our life works for our **good - this good**.
 - ◆ Does this promise only apply to our spiritual life and transformation? **No!**
 - ◆ God sees our life - physical, mental, emotional, spiritual - as one. You!
 - ◆ Everything is **everything!** Your whole life is **love** - God's kind of **love**.
 - ◆ God is working in **everything** to this good. To serve our God, not be a god.
- ❖ **So, how do we know for sure?**
 - Paul says, *we know*. The word and what follows shows us how we know.
 - *Know* here - not by experience. Knowledge acquired cognitively.
 - ◆ We learned this as Jesus revealed God's truths, promises, and purpose.
 - Through a series of accomplished facts we know everything works for our good.
 - ◆ *foreknew* - **not** omniscient knowledge of facts. *Knew* in a relationship
 - ◆ *predestined* - God's choice of grace **to be conformed to the image of his Son**
 - ◆ *called* - God acting through his gospel, calling to him - open eyes, creates faith
 - ◆ *justified* - personally applied status of *not guilty* since now in Christ.
 - ◆ *glorified* - making us fit for glory - removing sin and its curse
 - Work begun with baptism's washing. Finished at the resurrection.
 - As good as completed, because God promises. The goal of **good!**
 - How can you be sure? What he has begun in you, he'll bring to completion.
 - ◆ ¹⁶ *The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.*
 - ◆ ¹⁷ *Now if we are children, then we are heirs*
 - ◆ Look what God has done for you and in you. What he promised. Settled!
 - ◆ The fruit of God's work: your loving God, others, faith, longing for God

What is it that makes us question if God is working everything for our good? We don't like what's happening. *How can this be for my good?*

Return to these words. Recognize this promise as exclusive to you, a child of God through faith. Let God change your view of what is **good** - his ultimate goal not just for your eternity, but even now: **conforming you to the image of his Son**. Look back into eternity to see God's eyes on you - his total devotion to this mission. See what he has already done for you and in you. Then anticipate: *I can hardly wait to see how God is going to work this for my good.*

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is life-changing!**