

The Potter's Christian Life Center

SERMON NOTES
with Pastor Greg Formey



Good Things, Bad Things, And All Things

Romans 8:28-30
Sunday, May 22, 2016

Romans chapter 8 is without doubt one of the most powerful passages in the whole of the Bible. It reveals what God is doing from the depths of our despair to mountain tops of our ultimate victory over sin and weakness.

NEGOTIATING A WORLD MARK BY BAD THINGS

God wants us to know how to successfully live in a world overwhelmed with difficulty and brokenness. In **Romans 8:28-30**, he offers three principles for finding joy in it.

²⁸And 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.

²⁹For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.

³⁰And having chosen them, he called them to come to him. And having called them, he gave them right standing with himself.

And having given them right standing, he gave them his glory. NLT

There are many things that we do not know, but Paul declares that there are things that we do know - the most important things - that whole things are working in our favor.

THE TRUTH ABOUT BAD THINGS

Romans 8:28 says: "**And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God.**" NLT

When reading this verse, we can miss a truth that is hiding in plain sight. This reality is that **all things** happen to Christians. No one can honestly deny that bad, unpleasant, and even horrible things befall people who love God. Some have the notion that if we love and serve God, we will not have as many bad things happen to us. Loving and serving God does not exempt us from trouble.

"All things" in **verse 28** refers to the things in **verse 35**. Paul says, "**Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?**"

Paul's point is that even when the worst things happen to us, God has already worked them into His overall plan and purpose for your life.

Knowing this to be true, what sort of person should you be? Will you try to make yourself look good and God look bad, saying things like "Everything is against me!"

You very well know in your heart the promises God has made to you, the price He has paid for you, and the peace that is available to you? Are you going to deny all of that and say, "Listen to my tragic story; I want everyone to feel sorry for me?"

What we should say is, "**I will not dishonor my God. He has been good and kind to me.**

I will not bring shame to His name by looking for pity from anyone."

Let us pray for the day when we are so in love with God that we resist doing anything that would hurt Him. God is good and we know in our hearts deep within us that all things are working together for good"?

In the next messages we will see that our bad things will always end up good, our good things will always be good, and our best things are yet to come!