

Romans Chapter 8
Week 8, v. 28

Think about your testimony and how God has worked in your life according to His purposes. **How have you seen His hand order your life?**

Ro 8:28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to [His] purpose.

We can persevere because we have hope (Ro 8:25), because we have help (Ro 8:26), and because we know that God sees our heart through the intercession of His Spirit (Ro 8:27).

Now, in verse 28, we are introduced to another reason that we can persevere: the Bible says that everything is under the direction of an all-knowing God.

2Ti 1:9 who has saved us, and called us with a holy calling, **not according to our works, but according to His own purpose** and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity,

Verse 28 doesn't say we think or we hope or probably; it says we know that things work out for the glory of God. It means we can be sure. We have assurance that this is true.

What does that mean for those who know God? We are blessed!

Ps 128:1 How blessed is everyone who fears the LORD, Who walks in His ways.

Ps 112:1 Praise the LORD! How blessed is the man who fears the LORD, Who greatly delights in His commandments.

Ps 119:1 How blessed are those whose way is blameless, Who walk in the law of the LORD.

Isa 3:10 Say to the righteous that [it will go] well [with them,] For they will eat the fruit of their actions.

What things work together for good? *All things!*

All things work according to God's purpose to them that are called – Heb 2:10 For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things, and through whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to perfect the author of their salvation through sufferings.

All things work together for His good according to His pleasure – Eph 1:5-6 He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

All things work together for His good according to His purpose in Christ – 2 Tim 1:8-9 Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, or of me His prisoner; but join with [me] in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God, who has saved us, and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity,

What does Romans 8:28 say about the person who is a recipient of having all things work for good?

They love God and are called according to His purpose. What does it mean to love God?

Those who love God are obedient to His commands.

Joh 14:23 Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, **he will keep My word**; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him, and make Our abode with him.

De 10:12 "And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require from you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and love Him, and to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul

De 11:1 "You shall therefore love the LORD your God, and always keep His charge, His statutes, His ordinances, and His commandments.

I have taken occasion to hint at many privileges which, in consequence of participating of the gospel, you enjoy: and now I must add this to the rest, that though our afflictions may lie heavy upon us, and though our burdens may

continue long, yet we assuredly know that all things which occur in the course of divine Providence, either in their present and immediate, or future and more remote, consequences, do and shall work together for real and everlasting good to them that sincerely and prevalently love the blessed God, and are by grace called and formed to this confidence, I say, because God in his eternal counsels effectual purpose. We have this confidence, I say, because God in his eternal counsels designed this, and appointed a proper series of subordinate causes to make way for that blessed event in which all is to terminate; establishing a certain connection between the one and the other; a connection which in the greatest distress is our confidence and our joy. Philip Doddridge N.T.

What do we learn about God's character from Ro 8:28?

God is sovereign!

De 4:39 "Know therefore today, and take it to your heart, that the LORD, He is God in heaven above and on the earth below; there is no other.

1Ch 29:12 "Both riches and honor [come] from Thee, and Thou dost rule over all, and in Thy hand is power and might; and it lies in Thy hand to make great, and to strengthen everyone.

Ps 83:18 That they may know that Thou alone, whose name is the LORD, Art the Most High over all the earth.

Ps 135:6 Whatever the LORD pleases, He does, In heaven and in earth, in the seas and in all deeps.

Da 4:35 "And all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, But He does according to His will in the host of heaven And [among] the inhabitants of earth; And no one can ward off His hand Or say to Him, 'What hast Thou done?'

Pr 21:1 The king's heart is [like] channels of water in the hand of the LORD; He turns it wherever He wishes.

God loves those who love Him and blesses those who love Him.

Eph 2:4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,

Isa 49:15-16 "Can a woman forget her nursing child, And have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, but I will not forget you. "Behold, I have inscribed you on the palms [of My hands;] Your walls are continually before Me.

John 16:27 for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me, and have believed that I came forth from the Father.

Joh 14:21 "He who has My commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves Me; and he who loves Me shall be loved by My Father, and I will love him, and will disclose Myself to him."

2Th 2:16-17 Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us eternal comfort and good hope by grace, comfort and strengthen your hearts in every good work and word.

1Jo 4:19 We love, because He first loved us.

How do the truths in Romans 8:28 affect your thinking? How do these truths affect your relationships? How do they affect your responses?

Application Questions

Read the full chapter of Romans 8. Spend some time thinking about how God has orchestrated circumstances in your life to bring blessings to yourself and others. Praise Him for His faithfulness!

In reviewing Romans 8:25-28, what are the reasons we can persevere?

Are there any circumstances that are out of the realm of God's control? What does the Bible say about this?

Do you love God? How does it show in your life?

Look up John 14:23; Deuteronomy 10:12; Deuteronomy 11:1 – what do these verses say about someone who loves God?

Use your “Apply It” bookmark as a tool to help you pinpoint at least one specific application you can take from Romans 8:28 to work on this week.

Romans 8:28 tells us that God is the cause for working things together for good. What does this say about God’s character? Read Deuteronomy 4:39; 1 Chronicles 29:12; Psalms 135:6.

Please consider what God would have you share next week in order to encourage the group with their individual study time.