

# **“All Things Work Together For Good”**

## **Romans 8:18-28**

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**Teaching Aim:** To realize *“the Fall of Man”* has affected every aspect of creation. To realize the gift of the Holy Spirit is God’s guarantee that His promises will be fulfilled for those who are *“in Christ.”* To recognize how the Holy Spirit intercedes for us in our times of weakness when we don’t even know how to pray. To understand all things work together *“for the good of those who love God.”*

### **DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD’S WORD (BIBLE STUDY)**

#### **Part I: The creation groans for deliverance from the corruption that came with the Fall of Man (Rom. 8:18-25)**

1. Sometimes the suffering we go through in life can be overwhelming. As a Christian, how does Paul view suffering (**vs. 18**)? Should Christians lose heart as we go through trials and tribulations? Why or why not? In Paul’s view, how do our current sufferings compare to the future glory that we will experience in Christ (**vs. 18**)? (See **2 Cor. 4:16-18**) According to **Matt. 19:29-30**, what does Jesus promise to those who suffer for His name? Have you ever had to suffer for the name of Jesus? If so, how? What can we learn from **1 Pet. 1:6-9**?
  
2. What glory is Paul speaking of when he refers to *“the glory which shall be revealed in us”* (**vs. 18**)? According to The American Heritage Dictionary, *“glory”* refers to *“the splendor and bliss of heaven; a state of perfect happiness.”* As believers, what can we learn about our future state in heaven from this definition? Why should this understanding be an encouragement to every believer who is undergoing suffering today?
  
3. The Greek term for *“earnest expectation”* can be defined *“an outstretched neck”* (**vs. 19**). According to **verse 19**, what is creation waiting for with an outstretched neck? Are you eagerly awaiting the return of Jesus Christ and the revelation of the sons of God? Who are these *“sons of God”* who are yet to be revealed? What can we learn about these individuals from the title *“sons of God?”*
  
4. In what way was the creation subjected to futility following the Fall of Man (**vs. 20**)? What is the meaning of the word *“futility?”* (See Dictionary) Without naming any names, what are some ways our sin can negatively affect others today? Was the Fall of Man a surprise to God? Why do you think He allowed it? (See **vv. 22-24**)

5. What “*hope*” does creation have according to **verse 21**? What does the word “*liberty*” mean to you? What does Paul refer to as “*the glorious liberty*” of the children of God? (See **Rom. 8:29-30**) What are you looking most forward to in heaven? In what way will the believer be truly free in heaven?
6. “*Personification*” is the literary form of attributing human characteristics to abstract ideas or qualities of inanimate objects. In **verse 22** Paul personifies creation as a pregnant woman in the midst of intense labor pains. What do we find creation doing in **verse 22** because of the Fall of Man? When do people usually groan? What are some ways that we see creation groaning today? When do the pains of labor turn to tears of joy? What does the imagery of this personification teach about the Christian’s hope for the future? (See **Rev. 21:1-4**)
7. Who do we find groaning in **verse 23**? Why? In the Bible, “*the firstfruits*” are the first offering of the season signifying that the rest of the crop will follow. In this case, the indwelling Holy Spirit received by the believer at regeneration is “*the firstfruits*” from God. This is the sign and seal that the rest of the promises of God will come to fruition as well. Why is it significant that the Holy Spirit dwells in you? (See **Eph. 1:11-14**) What does “*the redemption of our body*” ultimately point towards? (See **1 Corinthians 15:42-55; Gal. 4:5-7**)
8. According to **verses 23 & 24**, what hope do we have? Is the kind of hope described in the Bible the same kind of hope that the world has? Explain the difference. Is faith required to have this kind of biblical hope and to please God? (See **Heb. 11:6; 13-14**) Where does this faith come from? (See **Eph. 2:8-9**) Describe the hope you have in Christ.
9. What kind of attitude should we have as we wait for this hope to come true (**vs. 25**)? (See **Tit. 2:11-14**) Why do hope and perseverance necessarily go hand in hand for the suffering Christian?

**Part II: The Holy Spirit groans as He intercedes in prayer for the believer (Rom. 8:26-27)**

1. According to **verse 26**, what is the role of the Holy Spirit? What are some ways the Holy Spirit helps us in our weaknesses today (**vs. 26**)?
2. Have you ever found yourself hurting so bad that you didn't even know how to pray (**vs. 26**)? Why do you think it is so difficult to pray at times? How does the Holy Spirit help us in our times of weakness? On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate your own personal prayer life? What are some steps that you can take to help you with your praying? When and where do you experience the sweetest times of prayer with God?
3. How can you know for sure if you are praying according to God's will? Why is it always good for the Word of God and prayer to go hand in hand? Have you ever used your Bible as your prayer guide? How do you see the Holy Spirit involved in your prayer life? In **verse 22** we saw that creation is groaning, in **verse 23** we saw that the believer is groaning, who is groaning in **verse 26**? Why? Have you ever been hurt so badly in life that you didn't even know where to start when it came to prayer? What important promise does every Christian find in **verses 26 & 27**?
4. Who searches the hearts of every believer according to **verse 27**? What will He find in your heart? What members of the Holy Trinity do we see at work in **verse 27**? What specific work of the Holy Spirit do we find here? What does the word "*intercession*" mean? (See Dictionary) How does the Holy Spirit pray for the believing saints according to **verse 27**?

**Part III: All things work together for good to those who love God (Rom. 8:28)**

1. Is **verse 28** a promise for everyone on planet earth or just for Christians? Why should **verse 28** be an encouragement to every Christian in times of trouble? Can negative life changing events like getting cancer or losing your job ever work out for good? If so, how? Why do you think God allows difficult things to come our way in His providence?

2. Who is Paul referring to when he says “*the called*” in **verse 28**? What does “*effectual calling*” mean? (See **vv. 29-30**) According to **verse 28**, does God have a purpose in allowing us to go through the difficult times in life? What are some ways that we can grow spiritually from these experiences? (See **Prov. 3:5-6**)
3. How do you respond when the challenges of life come your way? Do you consider yourself to have a teachable spirit or do you find yourself as a rather stubborn person? Which attitude is better? What are some ways that you can take your current circumstances and turn them around for the good? Will you trust God enough even during the difficult times to praise Him? Why or why not? What do you think God would want you to do?

**MINER’S CORNER ~ *Manna to live by!***

- Our sufferings today are not worthy to be compared to the glory that will come in the future to those who are in Christ.
- Creation itself groans for deliverance (**vs. 22**), Christian believers groan for the redemption of their bodies (**vs. 23**), the Holy Spirit groans on our behalf in prayer when we are hurting so bad that we don’t even know how to pray.
- The Holy Spirit is “*the firstfruits*” from God, the guarantee that He will fulfill all His promises to us in Christ.
- Biblical hope is a sure thing, it is a hope that cannot be taken away.
- God is at work through our sufferings to conform us to the image of Jesus Christ and to prepare us for spending eternity in glory with Him.