

All Things For Good

Romans 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. NASB

And we know – This in fact something we are assured of, it is the promise of God. It shall not fail, for it flows from the mouth of the Almighty God, who cannot lie, and whose power and knowledge are beyond comprehension. Again and again the scripture reassures us of things we have certainty of such as...

1 John 3:14 - 14 **We know** that we have passed out of death into life, NASB

2 Corinthians 5:1 - 5:1 For **we know** that if the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. NASB

We are certain of this truth because it is “according to His purpose” and none can thwart God’s purposes and His plans. This not a wavering matter. The apostle did not say “*we think*,” or “*we hope*” but rather “*we know*.” This according to Paul, we can count on, God works all things for good for His saints!

God causes all things to work together – THE PROVIDENCE OF GOD

Consider with me the weight of this statement.....God causes all things to work together! Here we see the great hand of God working in the midst of all things to make them work together for a purpose, for His purpose. Make no mistake, God is bringing all things of all times and ages, all men and women, all angels and demons, all nations and peoples, every planet and star and whatever can be named to an expected end! God is causing all things to work together! Consider with me for a moment the scripture.....

Hebrews 1:1-3 - 1:1 God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, 2 in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. 3 And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and **upholds all things by the word of His power**. NASB

Colossians 1:15-17 - 15 And He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation. 16 For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities — all things have been created by Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, **and in Him all things hold together**. NASB

Job 34:14-15 - 14 "If He should determine to do so, **If He should gather to Himself His spirit and His breath, 15 All flesh would perish together, And man would return to dust**. NASB

Acts 17:24-28 - 24 "The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; 25 neither is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since **He Himself gives to all life and breath and all things; 26 and He made from one, every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times, and the boundaries of their habitation**, 27 that they should seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; 28 **for in Him we live and move and exist**, as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we also are His offspring.' NASB

Ephesians 1:11 - In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose **who works all things after the counsel of His will**. NASB

Look closely with me at what the apostle says.....

- **God causes** – God is the primary cause behind everything that happens, and He uses the means of secondary causes to accomplish His sovereign will.

- **all things** – This is happening with “all things.” Not some things, or most things, but “all things.”
- **to work together** – He is working them “together” so that they cooperate to bring to pass His expected end!

God arranges the circumstances of history according to his purpose and plan- *God is very diligently governing this creation He has made. It is all coming to pass exactly like He planned it, He will be sure to see that it does.* The rain falls on the good and the bad, both peace and calamity come from God. Every authority which is on the earth has been established by God. All the events of human history had the divine approval before one of them ever came to pass. God rules on the Throne in heaven!

1 Chronicles 29:11-13 - 11 Thine, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, indeed everything that is in the heavens and the earth; Thine is the dominion, O LORD, and Thou dost exalt Thyself as head over all. 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.** 13 Now therefore, our God, we thank Thee, and praise Thy glorious name NASB

all things to work together for good to those who love God

Do you love God? Is He your treasure and are your affections set on Him! Here is a promise for you! Here is a promise where we can find hope, assurance, comfort, faith, and strength to endure the race! God is working for our **GOOD!** This God of Providence, the Almighty is working all things together for our *benefit*, for our *well-being*, for our *joy*, for our *eternal hope and blessing!* This is to say that no matter what happens(if we love God and are “the called”), whether good things or bad things, joys or sorrows, pleasures or pains, mercies or judgments, God is working them for our *ultimate* good and well-being! Consider with me some of the things that work for our good.....

- **The worst things** – God uses the worst things of life for our benefit.
 - The worst things drive us to God where we have all that we need
 - Our sorrows work for our good driving us to find comfort and rest in God alone
 - Our pains work for our good causing us to look to God to find healing and strength
 - God’s judgments and discipline bring about a harvest of righteousness and peace in our lives – They cleanse from our sins

When trial or trouble comes my way, it is God who holds me in the palm of His hand. More than this, we have the promise of eternal life with God in that place where there is no more crying or dying or pain. God our Father is even working everything for our own good having at all times our best interest in His mind. He will care for us, He will shepherd us, he will protect us and love us until we reach our home!

- **The best things** – God uses the best things of life for our benefit.
 - He fills us with His blessed Holy Spirit, the fruit
 - He gives us the treasures of His Word, His promises
 - His angels camp roundabout to keep us secure
 - We receive His mercies everyday – abundant grace
 - We have everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of Him – He is an *all-sufficient* resource
 - He gives us richly all things to enjoy

Consider further what things God has done to *secure* our eternal well-being and the *surety* of His purpose for our good!

- **It is by grace** - We have all these benefits by God's unmerited favor. We didn't earn it, indeed we couldn't earn it, it was God's gracious love that motivated Him to save a people for Himself not according to anything we have done but for His own purpose.

2 Timothy 1:9 - 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, NASB

- **It has been secured by Christ, it will not fail** – This favor of God which we now possess is “*In Christ*” and “*because of Christ.*” Jesus paid it all, He purchased us with His atoning sacrifice on the cross and satisfied the requirements of God's righteousness on our behalf. It is finished, it is bought and paid for, it is a done deal, we have been justified once and for all!

Romans 3:21-24 - 21 But now apart from the Law **the righteousness of God** has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, 22 even the righteousness of God **through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe**; for there is no distinction; 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 **being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus**

- **It is eternal** - God is eternally pleased on our behalf in Christ! We shall never die, we have passed from death into life (John 5:24), none can snatch us from His hand (John 10:28), and nothing shall separate us from the love of God in Christ!

Romans 8:37-39 - 38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, **shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.** NASB

It is abundantly clear from these things that we have a sure hope and certainty of ultimate good which shall shortly be our possession forever. When all of the mighty working of providence is complete, we shall lie down and rest in the eternal kingdom of God and none shall ever harm again for the coming ages of all eternity! We shall be perfectly fulfilled, joyously happy, and completely satisfied and overflowing with the marvelous blessing of God, world without end!

to those who are called

Dear friends, were you so wise as to look for the Savior that you might find Him and trust Him? Were you so smart that you figured out that God's salvation in the death of His Son was the hope for your soul? Did you work salvation for yourself by the strength of your arm? Did you possess the light of life in your dark soul by the work of your helpless will? I tell you NO! You were a helpless wandering, aimless sheep, lost on the mountains in the land of Nod till the Savior bright and true called you by name to return to His fold! It was the voice of God which “called you out of darkness” (1 Pet 2:10) and “brought you to Himself.” (Ex 19:4, John 6:44) It was His divine choice which decided to set His love upon you and “set your destiny beforehand” (Rom 8:29-30) by His own purpose and grace.

Romans 8:28-30 - 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. 29 For **whom He foreknew, He also predestined** to become conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first-born

among many brethren; 30 and **whom He predestined, these He also called; and whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.** NASB

This calling which you have received had its origin in the heart and mind of God, long ages before the world was ever created.

Ephesians 1:4-6 - 4 just as **He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world,** that we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love 5 **He predestined us** to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. NASB

Make no mistake about it, He called and you came by a power which was not your own. Indeed you could not even see the Kingdom of God until you were born again by the regenerating power of God's Holy Spirit. You may not understand it yet, but let me make this suggestion.....you should spend your days thanking and glorifying Him for His electing grace rather spending your days arguing with Him about His rights to do it! What wonderful love is this that would call us His people who are not His people? Praise God from whom all blessings flow! Praise Father , Son and Holy Ghost!

according to His purpose

Here is the divine plan behind all of the mysterious providence of all of the ages of God's boundless creation, it is all according to the purposes of God.

Lamentations 3:37-38 - 37 Who is there who speaks and it comes to pass, Unless the Lord has commanded it? 38 **Is it not from the mouth of the Most High That both good and ill go forth?** NASB

God has a plan! God has a purpose and He will surely do it!

Isaiah 46:9-11 - 9 "Remember the former things long past, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me, 10 Declaring the end from the beginning And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, **'My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure'**; 11 Calling a bird of prey from the east, The man of My purpose from a far country. **Truly I have spoken; truly I will bring it to pass. I have planned it, surely I will do it.** NASB

Yes He will! He has a plan for our well-being, a plan for our good! God is working for our good saints, and we have a sure hope which is unchanging, immovable and will come to pass in due time!

Notice with me.....

- **His plan is for our good!**
Jeremiah 29:11-14 - 11 'For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the LORD, **'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.** 12 'Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. 13 'And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. 14 'And I will be found by you,' declares the LORD, ' NASB
- **He is pleased to do it!**
Luke 12:31-32 - 31 "But seek for His kingdom, and these things shall be added to you. 32 **"Do not be afraid, little flock , for your Father has chosen gladly to give you the kingdom.** NASB
- **He is uses all things to bring it to pass!**
Romans 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. NASB

Practical helps we can find here!

- We can trust in and rely upon God! – Psalm 9:10
- Be thankful for every circumstance! In good times and in bad! 1 Thes 5:18