

Sermon NOTES

All Things Work Together for Good

Romans 8:28

28 And we know that for those who love God, God causes all things to work together for good, for those who are the called according to his purpose.

esv/nasb

29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

30 And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

Introduction

Let's talk about this God who is going to cause all things to work together for good

Who is this God can guarantee such a bold promise?

Well, the first thing we need to learn about this God is that he is for us.

Example scriptures proving God is for us:

Romans 8:31

31 What then shall we say to these things? **If/since/because God is for us, who can successfully be against us?**

One commentator points out that "...there are no verbs. The sentence actually says: 'If God for us, who against us?' Without regard for time, without regard for the past, without regard for the present, without regard for the future, without regard whatsoever, this is a **fixed** and **permanent reality**; it is **timeless**.

Genesis 15:1

1 After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: "Fear not, Abram, **I am** the Almighty Creator, the God of the universe **your shield** protector; your reward shall be very great."

Numbers 14:9

9 Only do not rebel against the Lord. And do not fear the people of the land, for they are bread for us. Their protection is removed from them, and the Lord is with us; do not fear them."

Psalms 27:1-3

1 The **Lord is my light** and my **salvation**;
whom shall I fear?

The **Lord is the stronghold** defense, refuge, fortress, an impenetrable safe haven **of my life**;
of whom shall I be afraid?

2 When evildoers assail me
to eat up my flesh,
my adversaries and foes,
it is they who stumble and fall.

3 Though an army encamp against me,
my heart shall not fear;
though war arise against me,
yet **I will be confident**.

SKIP TO VERSE 5

5 For in the day of trouble **He will conceal me** in His tabernacle;
In the secret place of His tent **He will hide me**;
He will lift me up on a rock.

6 And now my head will be lifted up above my enemies around me,
And **I will offer** in His tent sacrifices **with shouts of joy**;
I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the Lord.

The psalmist is saying, “It really doesn’t matter what happens, doesn’t matter whether it’s an individual, doesn’t matter whether it’s a small group, doesn’t matter whether it’s a nation coming against me in a war, it doesn’t matter. The Lord is my defender; and if He is for me, then who can successfully be against me?”

Ps 46:1-3,7

1 **God is our refuge** and **strength**,

A very present help abundantly available for help in trouble distress, a tight place.

2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change

And though the mountains slip into the heart of the sea/seas;

3 Though its waters roar and foam,

Though the mountains quake at its swelling pride. *Selah*.

SKIP TO VERSE 7

7 The **Lord of hosts is with us**;

The God of Jacob is our stronghold defense, refuge, fortress, an impenetrable safe haven.
Selah.

SKIP TO VERSE 11

11 The **Lord of hosts is with us**;

the **God of Jacob is our fortress**.

Selah

Psalm 27 - if man goes crazy – one person, a group of people, a nation, etc.

Psalm 46 – if the earth goes crazy -earthquakes, tsunamis, hurricanes, blizzards, storms, etc.

It doesn't make a difference because the Lord is on our side– HE is with us/God is for us!

Psalms 118:6

6 The Lord is on my side; I will not fear.

What can man do to me?

7 The Lord is on my side as my helper;

I shall look in triumph on those who hate me.

Isaiah 40:27

27 Why do you say, O Jacob,

and speak, O Israel,

“My way is hidden from the Lord,
and my right is disregarded by my God”?

28 Have you not known? Have you not heard?

The Lord is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.

29 He gives power to the faint,
and to him who has no might he increases strength.

30 Even youths shall faint and be weary,
and young men shall fall exhausted;

31 but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles;

they shall run and not be weary;
they shall walk and not faint.

1 John 4:4

4 Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in who lives/dwells in you; who has taken up permanent residence in you you is greater than he who is in the world.

BACK TO...

Romans 8:31

31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

No matter how dire our circumstances might be, no matter what the future might hold, no matter how tough life gets...

No matter what goes wrong in the world, no matter how bleak things might become morally, spiritually, economically, militarily; maritally, socially, physically, nothing can successfully defeat us since God is for us.

Romans 8:28

28 And we know...

And we can know with absolute, settled assurance and absolute confidence. One commentator writes, "Apostle Paul therefore asserts with God's own authority, that as believers in Jesus Christ, we can know beyond all doubt that every aspect of our lives is in God's hands and will be divinely used by the Lord not only to manifest His own glory but also to work out our own ultimate blessing."

Who are the Recipients of this Grace?

Rom 8:28

28 And we can know that for those who love God...

It is those that love God that are recipients of this grace and promise that all things will work together for good.

Who are those who love God?

Neh 1:5

5 And I said, "O Lord God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments..."

John 14:15

15 "If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

John 14:21-24

21 He who has My commandments and keeps them present tense – constantly, continually, consistently, is the one who loves present tense – constantly, continually, consistently, Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him."

22 Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, "Lord, what then has happened that You are going to disclose Yourself to us and not to the world?"

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 dwelling with him.

24 He who does not love Me does not keep constantly, continually, consistently My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father's who sent Me.

1 John 4:19-20

19 We love because he first loved us.

20 If anyone says, "I love God [meaning that I obey his commands, consistently, and continually]," and hates his brother which is in direct opposition to the word of God, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen.

1 John 5:2-3

2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey [constantly, continually, consistently] his commandments.

3 For this is the love of God, that we keep [constantly, continually, consistently] his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome [difficult, troublesome, grievous, heavy, weighty]

In other words, whatever god has commanded is not difficult carry out, to obey or to do.

BACK TO...

Romans 8:28

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Who are those who love God?

28 And we know that for those who love God, God causes all things to work together for good, for **those who are the called according to his purpose.**

Those who love God are the ones who are the called according to his purpose.

And since we are the called, let's take a look at versus 29 through 30

Rom 8:29-30

29 For those whom he **foreknew** he also **predestined** to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

30 And those whom he **predestined** [what's implied is that HE elected, selected and chose us all before time began. Then, after time begins] he also **called**, and those whom he called he also **justified**, and those whom he justified [then after time ends and eternity future begins] he also **glorified**.

In other words, in eternity past God foreknew us and predestined us. Again, what implied is we were elected, selected, and chosen in eternity past. Then in eternity present, if there is such a thing, he called and justified us. And in eternity future HE WILL glorify us.

The ones who love God have been called, summoned by God and will be glorified by God!

Couched in all of this are the **doctrines of unconditional election, eternal security** also known as the **perseverance of the saints!**

Rom 8:28 And we know that for those who love God, God causes all things to work together for good, **for those who are the called** according to his purpose.

What “the called” does NOT mean

This does not mean the hearing of the open-air preaching of the gospel. Some, after hearing the gospel, receive it and others reject it.

Those who say yes to the gospel are the ones who love God and are the called. Those who say no/reject to the gospel are the ones who do not love God and are not called.

Again, this is **NOT** what “the called” means here in Romans 8:28.

NOTE: There is an external, outward call that all can hear. However, it is NOT an *effectual call*.

Matt 22:14

For many are called, but few are chosen.

In most occasions when the word of God speaks of **the call of God** – especially in the epistles, it is almost always referring to the **effectual call of God**.

What is the effectual call?

The effectual call of God is the power of God’s call whereby what HE calls forth to occur occurs. I.E. That what he purposes to effect by that call is affected.

Creation is brought into existence by the effectual call of God.

When God called light into existence Light had no choice but to exist.

However, the effectual call is NOT an open invitation offered to everyone.

God did not try to woo/entice/plead with the light to come into existence! HE effectively called light into existence.

What God purposes in whatever call he gives, that purpose is never and can never be thwarted/frustrated because God is sovereign and rules sovereignly from all eternity. HE is the Lord God omnipotent (all powerful) who rules and reigns. (Rev 19:6)

Nothing and no one can resist the power of his call!

Think about when God called Paul to be an apostle. It was not a mere outward summons!

Acts 22:4-10

4 I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and delivering to prison both men and women,

5 as the high priest and the whole council of elders can bear me witness. From them I received letters to the brothers, and I journeyed toward Damascus to take those also who were there and bring them in bonds to Jerusalem to be punished.

6 “As I was on my way and drew near to Damascus, about noon a great light from heaven suddenly shone around me.

7 And I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?’

8 And I answered, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ And he said to me, ‘I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting.’

9 Now those who were with me saw the light but did not understand the voice of the one who was speaking to me.

10 And I said, ‘What shall I do, Lord?’ And the Lord said to me, ‘Rise, and go into Damascus, and there you will be told all that is appointed for you to do.’

There was no wooing, there or were no invitations given, it was a straight up take over, no questions I asked, period!!!

God’s calling Paul is one of the **purest examples of an effective call** in all of scripture!

1 Corinthians 1:1

1 Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes,

So,

- The called-out ones are the elect.
- The elect are the ones chosen from before the foundation of the world.
- The ones who have been chosen from before the foundation of the world are the ones who have been called inwardly.
- The ones who have been called inwardly are the ones who are the recipients of the unseen work of the Holy Spirit on their stony heart thereby effecting an eternal transformation which is the resurrection of their spirits unto eternal life.

John 6:65

65 And he said, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is **granted** him called **by the Father**.”

John 1:12-13

12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, **he gave** the right to become **children of God**,

13 **who were born**, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but **of God**.

Rom 9:11-16

11 though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad—in order that God’s purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of **him who calls**—

12 she was told, “The older will serve the younger.”

13 As it is written, “Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.”

14 What shall we say then? Is there injustice on God's part? By no means! 15 For he says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion."

16 So then it **depends not on human will or exertion, but on God**, who has **mercy**.

1 Cor 1:2

2 To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, **called to be saints** together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

Phil 3:12-13

12 Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was **laid hold of by Christ Jesus**.

2 Tim 1:9

9 who saved us and **called us** to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began,

BACK TO...

Rom 8:28 And we know that for those who love God, God causes all things to work together for good, for those who are the called **according to his purpose**.

According to His purpose: A desired end, a planned consequence, an intentional design, the expected result!

And what is his purpose?

Romans 8:29-30

29 For those whom he **foreknew** he also **predestined** to be **conformed to the image of his Son**, in order that he might be the **firstborn** among many brothers.

30 And those whom he **predestined** he also **called**, and those whom he called he also **justified**, and those whom he justified he also **glorified**.

Rom 8:28 And we know that for those who love God, **God causes all things to work together for good**, for those who are the called according to his purpose.

All things is utterly comprehensive, having no qualifications or limits. Neither this verse nor its context allows for restrictions or conditions. All things is inclusive in the fullest possible sense. Nothing existing or occurring in heaven or on earth "shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus" (8:39).

Paul is not saying that God prevents His children from experiencing things that can harm them. He is rather attesting that the Lord takes all that He allows to happen to His beloved children,

even the worst things, and turns those things ultimately into blessings **to work together *sunergeo***, from the English term **synergism** for good.

Synergism: The working together of various elements to produce an effect/result/outcome greater than, and often completely different from, the sum of each element acting separately. In the physical world the right combination of otherwise harmful chemicals can produce substances that are extremely beneficial. For example, ordinary **table salt** is composed of two poisons, **sodium** and **chlorine**.

Rom 8:28 And we know that for those who love God, **God causes all things to work together for good**, for those who are the called according to his purpose.

Fitting into his plan and purpose **for good** our good in time and His good in eternity **to those who are the called** the elect, the called out ones from the world; those who are called inwardly by the unseen work of the Holy Spirit on the stony heart of man **according to His purpose** His design.

Ps 25:10

10 All the paths of the Lord are lovingkindness and truth
To those who keep His covenant and His testimonies.