

GOD IS FOR US: ARE YOU FOR GOD?

DECEMBER 10, 2023

WORSHIP

Joy To The World, Our God,
What Can I Do, Solid Ground,
Our God

WELCOME

What is your favorite sports team? How do you show that you are totally on their side when they have a game?

WORD

ROMANS 8:28-32 (READ THE REST OF THE VERSES OF ROMANS 8)

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 those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; ³⁰ and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified. ³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?

Romans 8 can be called the most comforting and assuring chapter of the entire Bible. In fact, **verses 28** onwards is the pinnacle of what God wants to offer to us. It begins with the promise of “no condemnation” (**v.1**) and ends with the assurance of “no separation” (**v.39**) – but in between these two verses, what do we see? The reality of pain and suffering in this world.

How do we know that God is for us in the midst of challenges in this life? We need to look at His promise, purpose, and provision for us.

1. PROMISE

Romans 8:28 declares that we can KNOW something for sure – that “**God causes all things to work together for good**”. God is at work in our circumstances, not just sometimes or most of the time, but ALL THE TIME and IN ALL THINGS. We ask then – what about bad things? Is He causing that too? What this verse is simply saying is that He can allow both good and evil to reach us, but He works things together FOR THE GOOD. It’s easy for us to understand why bad things happen to bad people. But if good things happen to good people – it’s hard for us to answer why that happens. We still need to work out our **AQ (adversity quotient)** and **SQ (spiritual quotient)** to see that the good and the bad things work together for our good. “WORK TOGETHER” comes from the Greek word SUNERGEIO. When bad things happen to us, we have nothing to worry about. The “good” comes out of the bad has something to do with our transformation. The “good” is His good – not from our own expectation or imagination.

It is also conditional – it is for “**those who love God**” – this is the perspective that is beneficial for those who believe in God. The same people whom God loves possess God’s purpose too. What is God’s purpose?

2. PURPOSE

Romans 8:29-30 gives us some important words about God’s purpose for our lives.

- **FOREKNEW (Foreknowledge)** – God knows everything in advance, yes, but more than that, He knows in advance because He willed and chose for it to happen.

Example: Jeremiah 1:5

Before Jeremiah was even born, God had a plan for him already. You are not a product of accident. God is for you, and He foreknew you. He intentionally designed you for the purpose He had in mind for you even before your birth.

Example: 1 Peter 1:1-2

God made the choice before we even chose Him. He is the One working through the Holy Spirit in your life.

- **PREDESTINED (Predestination)** – God’s predestined will for our lives is to be conformed in Jesus Christ. It is a pre-setting of where we are going to be.

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Example: Acts 13:48

This humbles us because even for us to be able to believe in Christ, God still did something. By nature, we are opposed to God.

What made us believe? the GRACE of God. God is in control, but there is human responsibility as well. His grace enables us to trust in Jesus.

• CALLED (Election)

Example: 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14

God does not predestine anybody to go to hell, so God has to do something to soften hard hearts. We go to hell because we choose sin and reject Christ. But God made a way – He called us by our hearing of the gospel, and for those who turn to Jesus (and away from their sins), the end result is glory.

• **JUSTIFIED (Justification)** – we discussed this in the previous episodes; to be declared righteous, not guilty.

• **GLORIFIED (Glorification)** – technically in future tense, but here it was mentioned as past tense. When a prophecy is a certainty, it is written this way. We do not experience glory yet – the end goal of sanctification is glory, **1 John 3:2** tells us we are children of God, but it has not appeared yet. But there is certainty that we will reach this point and enjoy the future glory promised to us who belong to the Lord.

Knowing all these, why then should we worry about anything? God's ultimate sovereignty is a great comfort for us. If we cooperate with Him and love Him, we enjoy being rested in His perfect will.

3. PROVISION

Romans 8:31-39 is a wonderful way of assuring all of us. Paul asked 5 questions to give us assurance. God's greatest provision is JESUS CHRIST. We were reminded of the story of Joseph, with all the hardships he faced, the Bible constantly tells us "God was with Joseph" – through and through. In the end, Joseph became prime minister of Egypt! **Genesis 50:20** shows the great perspective Joseph possessed because he understood God's purpose, and how everything that happened to him was God's way of accomplishing the purpose and provision of His best for His people.

Sometimes we will be accused by our own conscience—condemnation and guilt will fall upon us, but God is the One who justifies; our condemnation fell upon Jesus, and Jesus is the One who intercedes for us (**vv.32-34**). What a wonderful assurance!

Our love for Christ may fade from time to time through all the things we go through – BUT NONE OF THESE THINGS (**vv. 35-37**) can overcome us, because **WE OVERWHELMINGLY CONQUER THROUGH HIM WHO LOVED US!** Paul rests his case in the final verses of **Romans 8 (vv. 38-39)** – nothing will be able to separate us from the love of GOD – why? Because in we have this great assurance in JESUS CHRIST alone. Sometimes, He would allow us to fall so that we will realize that nothing can be better than to find ourselves holding on to God through every event, every situation, every trial, every celebration. Let us continue to cling on to Him all the days of our lives. God is for us, but the question is, ARE YOU FOR GOD? Make that choice today!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why is it important for you to know that God is for you?
2. What benefit (promise, purpose, protection) resonated with you the most and why?
3. How do you demonstrate in your life that you are for God?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray for people who may feel that everything or everyone is going against them. Find ways to offer a listening ear and pray for and with them. Share how God will work all things together for good for those who love Him. Share Christ to them, that they too may experience God's love more completely, and they too will learn how to love and follow Jesus.

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives.

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of public servants; repentance and salvation for government leaders and citizens for a Christ-centered Philippines
- For the Russian invasion of Ukraine to stop; peace and order be restored, lives saved. Russian and Ukrainian soldiers, families, leaders to turn to Christ.

- Protection of Israel, God's people and all innocent lives that have been affected by the war.

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCFE Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Retreat Centre and Shelter

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends

MEMORY VERSE

ROMANS 8:31-32

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

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