

19. How can God's sovereign purposes comfort someone who lost a child? A job? A parent?

What would be an appropriate way to talk with people who suffer such losses? An inappropriate way?

20. What effect should this verse have on our daily lives? How should it change our attitude and outlook?

21. How can we pray for each other this week?

Quotes to Ponder

Believers may be depressed at the harsh conditions of their lives, but they should bear in mind that through it all God is working out a great purpose. No matter what the circumstances, that purpose will not be overthrown, and it culminates in final glory.

Leon Morris

As every mercy is a drop obtained from the ocean of God's goodness, so every affliction is a dram weighed out in the wisdom of God's providence.

James H. Aughey

A providence is shaping our ends; a plan is developing in our lives; a supreme and loving Being is making all things work together for good.

F.B. Meyer

Nothing whatever, whether great or small, can happen to a believer, without God's ordering and permission. There is no such thing as "chance," "luck" or "accident" in the Christian's journey through this world. All is arranged and appointed by God. And all things are "working together" for the believer's good.

J.C. Ryle

Providence is the almighty and ever-present power of God by which He upholds, as with His hand, heaven and earth and all creatures, and so rules them that leaf and blade, rain and drought, fruitful and lean years, food and drink, health and sickness, prosperity and poverty — all things, in fact, come to us not by chance but from His fatherly hand.

Heidelberg Catechism (1563)



Message #55: All Things For Good?

May 24, 2015

Sermon Notes

1. And We Know

2. That God Causes All Things to Work Together for Good

3. To Those Who Love God

4. To Those Who are Called According to His Purpose

1. What in the text or sermon impacted you most? What encouraged you? Convicted you? What called for more clarification?
2. What do we *not know* and what do we *know* (*Romans 8:26, 28*)?
3. Does *Romans 8:28* mean nothing bad ever happens to believers?
4. Is there any limitations on the promise of *Romans 8:28*? If so, what?
5. What biblical examples of *Romans 8:28* can you think of?
6. What is the supreme illustration of the truth of *Romans 8:28*?
7. Can bad things be good? Explain.
8. Why is *Romans 8:28* only true if God is sovereign over everything?
9. What is the ultimate *good* that *Romans 8:28* promises (*Romans 8:29-30*)?
10. Who is the promise of *Romans 8:28* given to?
11. Why does Paul identify Christians as *those who love God*?
12. What is the most obvious mark of a believer's love for God?
13. Explain what Paul means by *those who love God* and *those who are called*.
14. Read *1 Thessalonians 5:23-24*, *2 Thessalonians 2:13-14*, and *2 Timothy 1:9*. What do these verses say about our general calling?
15. How do these verses describe what you are called to specifically?
1 Corinthians 1:9 — *Hebrews 9:15* —
Galatians 5:13 — *1 Peter 1:15* —
Ephesians 4:1-3 — *1 Peter 3:9* —
16. Because we can't see how bad things can be used for our good, we must trust God and His promises. What promises are found in these verses?
Genesis 28:15 — *John 14:3* —
Numbers 23:19 — *Philippians 1:6* —
Isaiah 41:13 — *2 Thessalonians 3:3* —
17. How does *Romans 8:28* provide strength and encouragement as we struggle with suffering and sin?
18. What can possibly come into our lives that can defeat God's plan and purpose?