



Sermon Discussion Questions

June 7, 2026

Romans 8:28

The Ironic Providence of God

H.B. Charles, Jr.

Understanding Divine Providence

1. **Divine Irony vs. Divine Intervention:** The sermon distinguishes between God working through "divine irony" rather than "divine intervention." Can you think of a time in your life when God worked behind the scenes rather than through a miracle? How did you recognize His hand in that situation?
2. **The Burning Hut:** Reflect on the opening illustration of the man whose burning hut became his rescue signal. What "burning huts" in your life have you later recognized as God's provision in disguise?

Wrestling with Romans 8:28

1. **"All Things" Defined:** The sermon emphasizes that "all things work together for good" doesn't mean all things are inherently good. How does this distinction help you process difficult circumstances you're currently facing?
2. **Rear View vs. Forward View:** Romans 8:28 is described as clearer "in the rear view mirror of life" but meant to give us "foresight, not merely hindsight." How can we develop faith to trust this promise before we see the outcome?
3. **When We Don't Know What to Pray:** The sermon addresses our weakness in prayer (Romans 8:26)—we often don't know what to pray for. Share a time when you prayed for one thing but God provided something different. How did that shape your understanding of His goodness?

Redefining "Good"

1. **God's Definition of Good:** According to verse 29, God's ultimate "good" is conforming us to the image of Christ. How does this challenge our cultural understanding of what's "good for us"? What might this look like practically in your life?
2. **Suffering and Sanctification:** The sermon states, "It may cause you to cry...but if it makes you look more like Jesus, God says that's good for you." How do you reconcile

this truth with the pain of current struggles? What does it mean to embrace this perspective?

Personal Application

1. Two Perspectives: The sermon contrasts Jacob's words "all these things are against me" (Genesis 42:36) with Paul's assurance in Romans 8:28. Which perspective more naturally describes your current outlook? What would it take to shift toward Paul's perspective?
2. The Chosen Beneficiaries: This promise is specifically for "those who love God and are called according to His purpose." How does your relationship with Christ give you confidence in God's providence? If you're uncertain about your standing, what questions do you have?
3. Recycling vs. Trash: The sermon uses the metaphor of God "recycling" rather than trashing the broken things in our lives. What past failures, sins, or painful experiences might God be "recycling" for His purposes in your life right now?

Going Deeper

1. The Joseph Story: Genesis 50:20 shows Joseph recognizing that what his brothers meant for evil, God meant for good. How long do you think it took Joseph to arrive at that perspective? What does this teach us about patience in seeing God's purposes unfold?
2. Living by Faith: The sermon states we must "walk by faith with confidence" even when we can't see the outcome. What practical steps can you take this week to trust God's providence in an area where you're struggling to see His hand at work?

Close your discussion time by praying Romans 8:28 over one another, asking God to help you trust His sovereign goodness even in circumstances that don't yet make sense.