

"God at Work for Your Good"

Romans 8:28-30

INTRODUCTION. Romans 8:28 is one of the most comforting texts in all the epistles. It is especially so when we are going through grief, sorrow or disappointment. It is an oft-claimed promise of God for those who love Him and are obedient to His calling. From this text it is clear, God has everything under control. He is constantly at work for our good and His glory. As to the specifics of God's work notice:

- I. There is a CERTAINTY to His work (v. 28a "And we know.")
 - * literally "we have come to a clear and settled knowledge."
 - * the word means "experiential rather than merely intuitive."
 - A. I Corinthians 15:10
 - B. Philippians 2:13
 - C. Hebrews 13:21
- II. There is a CAUSE to His work (v. 28b "God causes")
 - A. God has a sovereign plan for every man (Jeremiah 29:11)
 - B. God takes the initiative in our salvation and in our calling (I Peter 1:3)
- III. There is a COMPLETENESS to His work (v. 28 c "all things")
 - * the word means His work is "unrestricted and all encompassing"
 - * the context suggest "things" related to " the sufferings of this present time" (v. 18)
 - A. Philippians 1:6
 - B. I Thessalonians 2:13
 - C. Job 42:2
- IV. There is a COOPERATION to His work (v. 28d "work together")
 - * "God" rather than "all things" is at work. (i.e. God causes)
 - * the word clearly means "to cooperate, work together or with another"
 - A. I Corinthians 3:9
 - B. Ephesians 3:20
- V. There is a CONSIDERATION to His work (v. 28d "for good")
 - * the idea is "eventual, ultimate, good" not necessarily immediate pleasure or gratification
 - * God works for the ultimate good of every genuine believer
 - A. Psalm 34:106
 - B. Psalm 84:11
 - C. Jeremiah 29:11
 - D. James 1:17
- VI. There is a CONDITION to His work (v. 28e "to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose")
 - * "to those" indicates a specific people (not all people)
 - * the twofold condition is clearly stated:
 - A. God's work is conditioned upon our CALLING (v. 28g)
 - B. God's work is conditioned upon our COMPLIANCE (v. 28f)

CONCLUSION. God is at work all around us ("all things"). God is at work in us ("working together"). God is at work through us ("according to His purpose"). — rrc