

## **God is Aware of Your Circumstances and Has a Good Plan for Their Outcome**

**Romans 8:28—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.**

To whom does this verse apply?

To those who love God Love=[AGAPAO] Who does love God? 1 John tells us: "Whoever keeps His word, in Him the love of God has truly been perfected." (2:5)

"If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him." (2:15)

"In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins." (4:10)

"We love, because He first loved us." (4:19)

"If someone says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar." (4:20)

"The one who loves God should love his brother also." (4:21)

"Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God; and whoever loves the Father loves the child born of Him." (5:1)

"For this is the love of God, the we keep His commandments." (5:3)

"And this is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded." (3:23)

Is this you? Do you love God? Do you believe Jesus is the Christ? Is the \*pattern of your life obedience to His commandments? Do you love others? Do you not love the world?

\*1 John 1:8-10 addresses whether believers sin and what to do if you do sin.

To those who are called according to His purpose

Explained in the following two verses (Romans 8:29-30).

What this verse teaches

God The Lord. Creator of our universe. Eternal: past and future. Final judge. Absolute truth. Absolute love. The Almighty One.

Causes to work together [SUNERGEIO] God exerts energy to cause things to combine/synthesize/come together for one purpose. A force comes from the Lord that results in things all turning to the same direction, working together for one goal.

All things God does not use His energy to cause some things to work together for His purpose, but all things. "All things" was broken into 3 categories by John

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MacArthur when he preached through Romans: Blessings from God, difficult circumstance (including sins of others against you) and your own sin.

Good (to those who love God) [AGATHOS] This is God's purpose in expending all that energy each day: to cause good in the lives of His children. He labors hour by hour, taking the situations of your life (your family, your job, what people say to you, world events), your own sin (the opportunity to confess/repent and again contemplate God's incredible love in forgiving, Christ's amazing love in paying the price), and His own gracious gifts of kindness in your life, and He causes all of these things to all work in the same direction: for your good.

God is aware of your circumstances and has a good plan for their outcome.

**James 1:2-4—Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.**

Joy [CHARA] Joy, delight. Not laughing sarcastically or sadistically at pain or tragedy, but being content amid difficulty and maintaining a quiet peace and the deep joy that comes from the certainty that God is here and He has a good plan for the outcome of it all.

Trials [PEIRASMOS] An experiment, trial, temptation. This same word is used to describe temptation, which cannot originate from God (1:13-16). But God does test the hearts of men (Proverbs 17:3). What's the difference? Temptations may come from our own lusts (James 1:14) or Satan seeking to devour us (1 Peter 5:8) or other people who want to see us fail (Genesis 50:20); tests from God are for the purpose of our growth (James 1:4, Romans 8:28). The scope of the use of "PEIRASMOS" here encompasses all the options.

Testing [DOKIMION] This general word for a test comes from the root word translated "proven character," which is God's intended goal for us in the process of being tested.

Produces [KATERGAZOMAI] Accomplish, produce, do, bring about, work out. When you are in a storm of life, there is a purpose. There is something of great worth which can only be made during such a time.

Endurance [HUPOMONE] This is the precious commodity to be produced.

Perfect [TELEIOS] Having reached its end; complete; mature.

Complete [HOLOKLEROS] Entire, complete. This is the good plan for the outcome of your difficult circumstances: to be mature and complete as a Christian. This is God's desire for you: to endure amid difficulty and thus grow stronger in Him.

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Applying James 1:2-4: What do the truths of this passage say about...

Complaining

God's love

A right view of hard times

Sarcasm

God's involvement in your life

When you're alone

When you're treated unfairly

**Genesis 50:20a—And as for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good.**

Joseph's father loved him more than his brothers (37:4).

Joseph was sold into slavery by his older brothers, who were jealous of him (37:11, 28).

The Lord caused Joseph to prosper as an Egyptian slave (38:3).

A prominent woman invited Joseph to have relations with her, day after day (38:7, 10).

He refused: "How then could I do this great evil, and sin against God?" (38:9) He was falsely accused and imprisoned

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Throughout the times of other sinning against Joseph, no complaints are recorded.

The Lord caused Joseph to be able to interpret dreams (40:8, 41:25).

Joseph was made a ruler of Egypt (41:41).

During a famine in Israel, Joseph's family travels to Egypt for food; he provides for them (45).

After Joseph's father dies, the brothers fear retribution for their sins against him (50:15).

Joseph tells them what he has always believed: "And as for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good." (50:20a)

Joseph pledged to provide for all of them and their families; he comforted them and spoke kindly to them (50:21).

Do you think Joseph was a man of anxiety and anger, or peace? Which is better?

Was God honored in Joseph's life? How?

Is God aware of your circumstances?

Does He have a good plan for their outcome?

Based on this great hope, what should you think about your circumstances?

Based on this great hope, how should you deal with those who sin against you?

Will you honor God today by living your life with this great hope from God's Word?