



# GOD IS FOR OUR GOOD

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

Romans 8:28-30





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Romans 8:28–30

Romans 8 begins with this wonderful declaration that “there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” Paul goes on to describe “those” as ones who have the Holy Spirit dwelling within and are led by him. Yet, Paul also stresses the reality that we still live in a fallen world marked by hardship, suffering and remaining temptation. In fact, all creation groans under the weight of the curse to which God has subjected it. Even believers groan inwardly as they await the adoption of sons, that is the redemption of our bodies.

From our earthly and limited vantage point, not everything seems good. Paul affirms something that we need truly to consider. “For those who love God and who are called according to his purpose, he works out all things for good.” Now, those who love God are those who have come to trust in Christ and by doing so have come to know God’s love for them. As John states “we love God because he first loved us.” This love of God is seen in this passage in terms of his electing and keeping grace in Christ. Paul bases his confidence that God works all things for our good on the fact that God has called us. This call is rooted in God’s eternal purpose of election and predestination and flows toward justification and glorification. He foreknew us (that is he loved us and hence chose us) and predestined us to be conformed to the image of his Son.

So, the good that God works through all things is that we are increasingly conformed to the image of his Son. That process isn’t always comfortable. The Son, Jesus, took on human flesh and by virtue of his incarnation, life of obedience, penal sacrificial death, resurrection and ascension became the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. As Christ’s brothers and sisters, God the Father has determined that we grow up into the image of his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, which entails hardship but yields personal holiness. This is indeed a supreme good.

### THIS WEEK, AS YOU PRAY:

- Pray the Father help you see and rest in his grace to you in Christ Jesus.
- In your weakness in not knowing how to pray, consider the reality that the Holy Spirit intercedes for you with wordless groans.
- Pray that the Holy Spirit illuminates your mind and heart to the truth of Romans 8:28–30.
- Spend time praising and thanking God for the benefits of his grace set forth in Romans 8:30.