

2:42LifeGroups

GROWING TOGETHER IN THE GOSPEL

Life Group Growth Sheet

All Things for Good

Romans 8:26-27

Introduction and Review

“God, what are doing in my life?” If you’ve never actually said that aloud, maybe you’ve thought it in your heart. “After all,” our vexed thinking goes, “if *I* were God, I would never treat my children like God is treating me.” Since the sufferings of life make us feel that God is ignoring or mistreating us, we need the assurance of Romans 8:28-30. It teaches that **everything, including the things that threaten to destroy us, is part of God’s plan for our final triumph.**

In fact, this is what it means to be a “more-than-conqueror.” It means that God’s love for us is so powerful that he does not merely make our trials vanish. Instead, he tames and transforms them to become the very means of our victory. That is why Paul declares near the end of this chapter, “*in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us*” (Romans 8:37).

But in order to enjoy this truth, we must believe that God really does have a fixed, all-encompassing plan that will result in our highest good and his glory. That is the theme of verses 28-30. We may not understand why our path twists and turns as it does, but we *do* know where the path leads. We *do* know his plan for it all.

These verses show God’s good plan from five angles:

1. Our *knowledge* of God’s plan (“and we know,” 8:28)
2. The *recipients* of God’s plan (“for those who love God . . . called according to his purpose,” 8:28)
3. The *scope* of God’s plan (“all things work together,” 8:28)
4. The *outcome* of God’s plan (“for good . . . to be conformed to the image of his, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers” (8:28, 29)
5. The *certainty* of God’s plan (“for those whom he foreknew he also predestined . . . and those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified” (8:29, 30).

We will deal with these five angles in three sermons. (1) This sermon deals with the *knowledge*, *recipients*, *scope*, and *outcome* of God’s plan. (2) The next sermon will expand on the *outcome* of God’s plan (8:29). (3) And the final sermon will deal with the certainty of God’s plan (8:30).

Discussion & Application

1. Read 8:26 and 8:28 and note the contrast between what we do *not* know (8:26), and what we *do* know (8:28). What would the top three questions you would ask God about the things going on in your life right now? What might be some pros and cons of getting those answers now?



2. Paul describes the recipients of God's good plan in two ways: 1) those who love God, and 2) those who are called according to his purpose. It is important to understand that our being "called according to his purpose," is the *reason* why love God, not the other way around. As the Apostle John writes, "We love him because he first loved us." What would be the outcome if God's good plan *depended* on our love for him? In light of Paul's description of believers as sons and daughters of God (8:14-16) why does it make sense to describe them as "those who love God"?
3. The scope of God's good plan is *all things*. Nothing, no matter how devastating or frightening, is outside his control. What are you facing that you find most difficult to see as part of God's good plan?
4. The *outcome* of God's good plan is twofold: 1) believers' being conformed to the image of his Son, and 2) Jesus being "the firstborn among many brothers" (8:29). This means that our becoming completely like Christ will be our fullest satisfaction and God's greatest glory. Have you ever thought that glorifying God would mean life being miserable for you? How can the truth of this verse change your perspective on God's glory and your good?
5. Many people would claim Romans 8:28 as their favorite verse, or at least as a very important verse. How is it possible for this verse to be misunderstood and thus misused? Based on this study, what part is most important for people to understand?