

THINK BIBLICALLY ABOUT SUFFERING | WHAT DOES ROMANS 8:28 REALLY MEAN?

ROMANS 8:28-30

Shane Freeman | 3.23.2025

Romans 8:28

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose.

I Common Misuses of Romans 8:28

- 1 God purpose is our comfort. Romans 8:18, 35, 38-39

Romans 8:18

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

Romans 8:35

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?

Romans 8:38-39

For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- 2 Everything we endure in life is good.
- 3 God only works in the big things of life. Romans 8:28a

Romans 8:28a

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good...

II Thinking Biblically and Correctly about Romans 8:28

Romans 8:28

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose.

- a Life is out of our control, but it's never out of God's control.
Romans 8:28 / Psalm 24:1 / 1 Chronicles 29:12-15

Psalm 24:1

The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein

1 Chronicles 29:12

Both riches and honor come from You, and You rule over all. In Your hand are power and might, and in Your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all.

- b This promise isn't for everyone.

Romans 8:28a / John 14:21a

Romans 8:28

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose.

John 14:21a

Whoever has My commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves Me.

- c God works in all things, not just in some things. Romans 8:28

Romans 8:29

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.

- d God's purpose isn't our happiness, but our holiness.

Romans 8:28-29

III Maintaining Perspective in the midst of Suffering

- 1 Always interpret what you don't know by what you do know.

2 Chronicles 16:34 / Psalm 46:1, 119:105 / Isaiah 26:3-4, 41:10 / Malachi 3:6

1 Chronicles 16:34

Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His steadfast love endures forever!

Psalm 46:1

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Isaiah 26:3-4

You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You. ⁴ Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord God is an everlasting rock.

Malachi 3:6a

I the Lord do not change

Isaiah 41:10

fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.

Romans 8:28

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose.

Psalm 119:105

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

- 2 Choose to rejoice in what results from your suffering.

Romans 5:1-4 / 2 Corinthians 11:25-27

2 Corinthians 11:25-27

Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea; ²⁶ on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers; ²⁷ in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure.

Romans 5:1-4

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ² Through Him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³ Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope,

- 3 Trust God to finish what He's started. Romans 8:30 / 1 Corinthians 2:9

Romans 8:30

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 8:18

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

1 Corinthians 2:9

But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love Him"