

Dear Church: Twisted Scripture Part 4
Romans 8:28 God works all things together for good
A Bible study for individuals, groups or classes

Background scripture:

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.

Podcast Sections:

00:29 How this verse is misused
04:27 Misunderstanding this passage is a failure in our study of scripture
09:13 Romans 8:28 is the silver lining
09:59 Two ways the passage is misused
10:44 Suffering and Romans 8
15:23 "Everything happens for a reason"
16:41 Does God cause suffering?
19:40 Putting suffering in context
22:04 Dangers of a goal of comfort
26:44 Views of those who have suffered
29:24 Is this as good as it gets?
31:20 Our definition of good
32:22 We need to understand what our best good is

Discussion questions:

1. How have you heard of or experienced this verse being used poorly?
2. Read Romans 8:18 (below). How does this verse tie in with verse 28?
3. How can II Corinthians 4:16-18 (below) change our view towards suffering?
4. Would a life where everything runs smoothly, a life without suffering, allow us to grow?
5. Read Romans 5:3-5 (below). Based upon this passage, what should our attitude be towards suffering?

Scriptures related to this study

Romans 8:18 (referenced at 09:32)

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 8:26-29 (referenced at 7:28)

26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. 27 And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. 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. 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. 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.

31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? 33 Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? 36 As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 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.

II Corinthians 4:16-18

So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. 17 For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, 18 as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

Romans 5:3-5

3 Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, 4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, 5 and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

All scriptures are from The Holy Bible: English Standard Version. (2016). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.