

*All Things Work For Good*

*“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to his purpose.”*

*Romans 8:28*

Sometimes it's a little hard to make sense of life. When we're faced with desperate situations, even cruel tragedies, putting the Scriptures into perspective often requires some deliberate effort on our part.

Let me rephrase that...perhaps it's not us putting the *Scriptures* into perspective, but rather, deliberate effort in lining *our thinking* up to see through the perspective of the *Scriptures*.

If we were to isolate Romans 8:28 from the rest of the Apostle Paul's writings, we'd almost think that this was a man who had endured no hardships, who had no weaknesses. We see our own circumstances and say, "If Paul were going through what I'm going through now, he wouldn't be so quick to say 'all things work for good.'" Read on...

The same man who wrote this passage went through some things we will probably never have to face. Paul was frequently imprisoned; he was beaten, shipwrecked, in danger from all sides, laboring long with little sleep and few comforts. Declaring that his sufferings weren't worthy to be compared to the glory to be revealed, he would later go to his death defending the gospel—ironically in the very city to which this letter was addressed.

God doesn't cause bad things to happen to us; however, when we go through low places, as all people do, He is our help and our strength. Paul had learned that while all things are not in themselves *good*, God works them *toward* our eventual good. God's always looking to our future, and the ultimate good is that we spend eternity with Him. The speed bumps we encounter in life merely slow us down long enough to remind us that we're here only for a short time, and for a divine purpose. May we evaluate our circumstances in light of God's timing, His purpose, and in the infinite wisdom of His Word.

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