



“All Things Work Together For Good”

Romans 8:28

Sunday | August 6th, 2017 | Pastor Patrick Bowler

CONSULT THE SCRIPTURES

Romans 8:26-30 *“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. 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. 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.”*

(See also all of Romans 8, Deut. 7:6-8, Matt. 7:21-23, Acts 13:48, Gen. 50:20, Php. 1:6)

CONSULT THE SCHOLARS

[John R. W. Stott] “Neither Scripture nor experience allows us to weaken this teaching [God’s sovereignty in salvation; i.e. “predestination”].¹ As for Scripture, not only throughout the Old Testament is Israel acknowledged as ‘the one nation on earth that God went out to redeem as a people for himself’, to be his special ‘treasured possession’,² but throughout the New Testament it is recognized that human beings are by nature blind, deaf and dead, so that their conversion is impossible unless God gives them sight, hearing and life.

Our own experience confirms this. Dr. J. I. Packer, in his fine essay Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God,³ points out that in fact all Christian people believe in God’s sovereignty in salvation, even if they deny it. ‘Two facts show this,’ he writes. ‘In the first place, you give God thanks for your conversion. Now why do you do that? Because you

¹Note added for reference

²2 Sam. 7:22ff.; cf. Ex. 19:3ff.; Dt. 7:6; 10:15; 14:2; Ps. 135:4.

³Inter-Varsity Press, 1961. Ired by John R. W. Stott, *The Message of Romans* (Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 1994), p. 250.

know in your heart that God was entirely responsible for it. You did not save yourself; he saved you ... There is a second way in which you acknowledge that God is sovereign in salvation. You pray for the conversion of others ... You ask God to work them everything necessary for their salvation.’ So our thanksgivings and out intercessions prove that we believe in divine sovereignty. ‘On our feet we may have arguments about it, but on our knees we are all agreed.’⁴

Yet the mysteries remain. And as finite and fallen creatures we have no right to demand explanations from our infinite and perfect Creator.’⁵

DISCUSS

1. Is there a “junk drawer” in your house? What types of things are in it? What was Pastor Patrick illustrating with the “junk drawer?”
2. If you live long enough, you suffer. And like the contents of a “junk drawer,” we often don’t know what to do with our pain and suffering. What hope does the promise in *Romans 8:28* provide us?
3. According to Pastor Patrick, what are the ways this Scripture is misapplied?
4. Who is the promise for in *Rom. 2:28*? What is it a promise of?
5. What is the “good” that Paul is referring to in *Rom. 8:28* (See *Rom. 8:29, 30. To be made like Christ*)?
6. Some have called *Romans 8* “*The brightest gem in the treasure chest of Scripture.*” Read all of *Romans 8* allow and rejoice in its wonderful truth.
7. What immediate applications can be made in light of this text?

⁴*Ibid.*, pp. 12ff.

⁵John R. W. Stott, *The Message of Romans* (Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 1994), p. 250.