

AND WE KNOW ~ Romans 8:28-29

→Scripture Reading Romans 8:27-30

INTRODUCTION

^{8:22} We know that **the whole creation** has been GROANING as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.

²³ Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we WAIT eagerly for our adoption as sons, the REDEMPTION of our bodies.

Philippians 3:20-21 (NIV) But our citizenship is in heaven. And we **eagerly await a Savior** from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who, by the POWER that enables Him to bring everything under His control, WILL transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like His glorious body.

²⁴ For in this HOPE we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? ²⁵ But if we HOPE for what we do not yet have, **we wait for it patiently.** (NIV)

^{8:26} ...the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do NOT KNOW what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us... ²⁷ ...the Spirit INTERCEDES for the saints in accordance with God's WILL. (NIV)

God is ALWAYS Working ~ Romans 8:28-29

²⁸ 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.

John 3:16 (NIV) For God so loved the world that he gave His ONE and only Son, that whoever BELIEVES in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

From the human perspective WE are those who LOVE God, whereas from God's perspective WE are those who are CALLED. MacArthur

²⁹ For those God foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brothers.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV) ...if anyone is IN Christ, he is a NEW creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

^{8:29} ...God, in His foreknowledge, CHOSE them to BEAR the family likeness of His Son, that He might be the ELDEST of a family of many brothers. (JBP)

When **ALL believers** are CONFORMED to Christ's likeness, the resurrected Christ will be the firstborn of a new race of humans, who are purified from sin. Because we are God's children, we are Christ's brothers and sisters. LAB

IMPLICATIONS

→What we DO NOT Know - and what we DO Know

^{8:26} ...the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do NOT KNOW what we ought to pray for... (NIV)

²⁸ And WE KNOW that IN ALL things God works for the good... (NIV)

→This verse does NOT say that God CAUSES ALL Things

^{8:28} And we know that God CAUSES **all things** to work together **for GOOD**... (NAS)

Nowhere in Scripture do we read that God causes sin or evil. He PERMITS these things, but that is much different from INITIATING them. Constable

James 1:13 (NLT) And remember, when you are being tempted, do NOT say, "God is tempting me." God is NEVER tempted to do wrong, and He NEVER tempts anyone else.

When tragedy touches a believer we should NOT conclude that this is one of the ALL THINGS that God causes. Rather this verse says that God brings GOOD out of ALL THINGS... Constable

The CAUSES of Suffering and Tragedy ARE... Constable

- Satan
- the Sinful CHOICES people make
- the consequences of living in a sinful CURSED world

→ Everything that Happens is NOT Good - BUT GOD uses it FOR our GOOD

^{8:28} And we know that God CAUSES ALL things to work together for GOOD to those who love God... (NAS)

> Sometimes God allows what He hates to accomplish what He Loves. Joni Eareckson Tada

God causes ALL THINGS to work for good, NOT "all things work out." Suffering will still bring pain, loss, and sorrow, and sin will bring shame. But under God's control, the eventual outcome will be for our good. LAB

→ God makes GOOD use of BAD Things

^{8:28} And we know that God causes ALL things to work together for GOOD to those who love God, to those who are CALLED according to His PURPOSE. (NAS)

²⁹ For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become CONFORMED to the image of His Son... (NAS)

> God is more concerned with CONFORMING to the likeness of His Son than leaving me in my comfort zones. God is more interested in inward qualities than outward circumstances - things like reining my faith, humbling my heart, cleaning up my thought life and strengthening my character. Joni Eareckson Tada

→ This Truth of Rom. 8:28 is about KNOWING - NOT about FEELING

²⁸ And **WE KNOW** that in **ALL things** God WORKS for the good (NIV)

²⁸ And WE KNOW that God CAUSES **ALL things** to work together for good... (NAS)

TAKE AWAY ??

²⁸ Moreover we know that to those who love God, who are called according to His plan, everything that happens **fits into a pattern** for good. ²⁹ God, in His foreknowledge, chose them to bear the family **likeness of His Son**, that He might be the eldest of a family of many brothers. (JBP)

²⁹ For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined **to become CONFORMED** to the IMAGE of His Son... (NAS)

God weaves everything together for GOOD for His children. The GOOD in this context does NOT refer to earthly comfort but CONFORMITY to Christ. ESV

Life is But a Weaving by Corrie ten Boom

My life is but a weaving Between my God and me.
I cannot choose the colors He weaveth steadily.
Off' times He weaveth sorrow; And I in foolish pride
Forget He sees the upper And I the underside.

Not 'til the loom is silent And the shuttles cease to fly
Will God unroll the canvas And reveal the reason why.
The dark threads are as needful In the weaver's skillful hand
As the threads of gold and silver In the pattern He has planned