

Romans 8c

28 The Spirit prays God's will, and we know ... in ALL things, even difficulty, even the things in vs 35. Or another possible translation is God works together with those who love him to bring about what is good-with those who ... (NIV note) Deut 8:16 Some words or phrases in Greek can be translated more than one way. Did God make a mistake? I think when the translations do not contradict other Scripture both are valid. In this case we know Scripture confirms that God does work with us and even calls us co-workers. We also see that Scripture teaches in all things God works for the good of those who love Him. Consider the lives of the Patriarchs and Jesus, the heroes of Heb 11, Jer 32:40, so they might obtain a better resurrection. This has been voted the favorite verse of Christians. No wonder, for it tells us that all the troubles of life have value and meaning. Would you expect less from a perfect God? The question is will we believe this in the difficulties of life?

29 Don't let the fullness of each verse casue you to miss the flow. God works for our good, which is defined here as conforming us to the image of His Son. Foreknowledge and predestination go hand in hand. Chances are if you are reading this you are predestined for whatever reason - your choice to receive Him or God's sovereign will. Getting caught up in that theology, you could miss the real wonder here- you are predestined to be conformed to the likeness of Jesus, to be his brother or sister. I actually like this verse as much as verse 28. It promises me the ultimate. What more could I ask? Phil 3:21 Someday we will be physically like our glorified Savior's body, but greater than that is the inward transformation. Mt 12:50

30 The work in this verse is called glorification. Called, chosen according to foreknowledge, justified and then everything working to transform us into the image of the Son, ending in being glorified. First God picks who will come to Him. Then He calls them by His Spirit. Then He applies the blood to the door-posts of their heart and finally at the sound of the last trump we will be glorified. Was this the state of Adam in the Garden before the fall? Was he clothed in light, a glorified body like the one Jesus wears today? Is the whole process of history learning of God's gracious love, the marvel of mercy, the justice of the Sovereign Holy One? Could we have learned it as fully any other way? The Bible ends with the glorified race of Adam (the redeemed) entering into a new garden that has taken a lot longer than six days to prepare- New Jerusalem.

31 To grasp that Elohim (God of Power and Might, the Creator) is for us, for ME, will transform my attitudes, my perspective. Discouraged and oppressed people often say "Why is God doing this to me?" The voice of faith believes verse 28 and trusts what it can't see or understand. We need to personalize this transforming truth. Say out loud, "Almighty God is for (your name)!" With conviction! When tempted to doubt and be discouraged say it. Is the city denying a permit for your new sanctuary? SAY IT! Have coincidences and lies taken your job? say it. Did your best friend turn his back on you and try to crush you? Say it. Family forsake you?... All things are working to transform me into the image of the Son and bring me into glorification. If that is God's goal, who can stop Him? 1 John 4:4

32 Look what this is saying! Church - wake up and claim this! God delivered up his own Son because it was good for you. Is there anything good for you that He will withhold? And what is in His hand to bless you with? Everything! If you believe your life is all good for you, the guidance of God, the best He can send your way, and if you believe that even the evil in the world that hurts you without you being directly responsible for it, He has allowed for your good, then life is suddenly a marvel and everyday has purpose. Romans 5:10; 1 Corinthians 3:21-23

33 This is a powerful source of assurance. Only God can justify, make right with Himself. If He chose you, He will do that. If He does that how can Satan or anyone else bring a charge against you? This should be a great source of liberty from fear. God chose me! Isaiah 54:17; Revelation 12:10-11

34 Only Christ can condemn a soul as only He knows the ones who He knows and know Him. If you know Him, how can anyone condemn you since Christ died for you, was raised to prove the sacrifice was accepted by God, and is interceding to God for you? 8:1; 14:13

35 Can you name anything that will separate you from his love? I can't, but I do believe I can choose to reject it just as I chose to accept it. That is not a condition or outside influence; it is my will. The verse emphasizes that conditions and threats can't get in the way of Christ's love for us. Psalm 103:17; John 10:28

36 Quoting Psalm 44:22. A Psalm that asks for help when they were in trouble but did nothing wrong. John 16:2

37 Hyper-conqueror or surpassing victor on our way to glorified Christ-likeness. It is IN them - the above hardships - that we have surpassing victory! God turns the difficulties in life into blessings that transform us and prepare us for eternity. 1 Corinthians 15:57; 1 John 5:4-5

38 Ephesians 3:16-19 He wants us to be convinced too, so we can be filled with all the fullness of God. Death can't separate us, angels wont, demons can't, nothing now or in the future can; no power is greater than God.

39 You can go to a mountaintop or the depth of the sea, His love is still there. God is the Creator, refer to verse 32 and we see that He has not withheld his Son, his love for us is so great. How could He create any thing that would separate us from his love? Hence the phrase "nor anything else in ALL creation". Be assured of His good plans for you, His love that passes comprehension. Walk in that assurance each day and a smile will show your conviction that it is true. How can you not be joyful when you believe His awesome love is with you in every situation making you a super-conqueror? He loves you so much that He is going to share His glory with you. If I could only memorize one chapter in the Bible this would be it! It is an explanation of how to live a victorious Life. Ephesians 2:4-7; 1John 4:16