

God's Purpose in the life of believers

Key Scriptures

Romans 5:3-5 And not only that, but we also rejoice in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance;⁴ and perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵ Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

Romans 8:16-18, 28 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,¹⁷ and if children, then heirs-- heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

²⁸ *"And we know that to those who love God, He works together all things into good, to the ones who are called according to His purpose"*
(Literal translation)

Key Point:

"Everything is needful that He sends, and nothing can be needful that He withholds." (John Newton)

TALK IT OVER

Start talking: Pick a conversation starter for your group.

- Do you see the glass half full or half empty? Does it depend on the situation?

Start thinking. Ask questions to get your group thinking.

- Romans 8:28 begins with "And we know." What do you think Paul assumes we should already know at this point in chapter 8?
- In what ways does Romans 8:28 more concisely summarize what Paul already said in 5:3-5? Do you think Romans 8:28 includes more or less than 5:3-5?
- Why do you think God's promise is for "those who love God" as well as "those who are called according to his purpose?" Why didn't Paul say "those who have faith in Christ?"

Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- What confidence does verse 28 give you about the events that occur in your life? Do you say the same thing when suffering comes your way?
- Is there a way that you are seeking to change your circumstances, when perhaps the best thing you can do now is the seek to change your heart's attitude toward them?
- What is one thing you would like to have more confidence to deal with in the week ahead?

Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week!

- This week, memorize Romans 8:28

Prayer Requests. It may be helpful to pray the scriptures back to God.

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